

Former prime minister feels free to speak out as she ends 32 years as an MP

## Thatcher to carry on EC fight

### Threat of revolt if Major accepts Delors deal

By PHILIP WEBSTER AND ROBIN OAKLEY

MARGARET Thatcher announced yesterday that she was bowing out as an MP, then immediately pledged to speak out more loudly against a single European currency and federalism.

Within minutes of the confirmation that she was ringing down the curtain on her 32-year Commons career, the former prime minister was gloating in her new-found freedom to attack any compromise over the single currency and to criticise the decision to kill the poll tax.

Mrs Thatcher, who will go to the Lords after the general election, said her decision would show that she was not a threat to John Major. She told *The Times*: "Now it's clear that I am not challenging John Major in any way. Some people have been thinking I was waiting in the wings. I never was."

Her remarks, however, were a warning to her successor that he could have a Thatcher-led revolt on his hands if he moves towards a deal that allows the EC to accept the goal of a single currency while leaving Parliament to decide if and when to participate. In an interview with ITN, she made plain she could not live with such a scenario. "That is trying to get us there step by step, little by little. That has often been done in the Community. If other people wish to come closer together with a single currency, they are perfectly entitled to do so. You don't have to pour 12 very different nations into the same shape pigeonhole."

Some MPs believe that it is precisely because she knows she will have to battle against the European treaty in a way that could embarrass Mr Major that she has decided to go. However, unless there is an autumn election, she will still be in the Commons when he puts to Parliament the economic and monetary union treaty expected to be signed in December.

Mrs Thatcher's presence in the Commons has been a distraction for Mr Major and her departure will make life

#### WHY I AM GOING

Mrs Thatcher gave her first newspaper interview on the retirement to Simon Jenkins, editor of *The Times* Page 12

#### ON LOST LEADERSHIP

"They chose to do that thing to me at a time when I was actually abroad negotiating and signing a treaty for my country. So be it! So be it!"

#### ON JOHN MAJOR

"I have had to fight and fight. John came in in 1979. We'd won. We went on winning. You can't expect a person who's not been in the heat of the fire and teeth of the wind to have the same viewpoint as someone who has been through it all."

#### ON EUROPE

"Mitterrand thinks that France will be able to influence the Germans more than any other country. He thinks he might have more freedom than he has now with the monetary system... that is a great misjudgment. The stronger Germany becomes... the less she will heed others."

#### ON SPEAKING OUT

"I shall feel free to answer direct questions. I am not going to change my views and I shall go on propounding them."

her removal from office. "They chose to do that thing to me at a time when I was actually abroad negotiating and signing a treaty for my country with everyone else." And in her ITN interview, she wiped away tears as she recalled the day she left 10 Downing Street for the last time. She told Michael Brunson she was thinking back through traumatic times. She had been defeated because of rules made by the Conservative party for leaders in opposition. "That is the first time it had happened. It happened. I took the right decision. I am now free to live another life of practical use both to the people of this country and internationally."

She denied that any of the cabinet ministers who saw her the evening before she quit had told her that they would resign if she carried on. "No one said that to me, not one."

Speaking for the first time in detail about her removal, Mrs Thatcher admitted that after narrowly failing to win on the first ballot, she did not think it would be difficult to get a few more votes to take the second. But while she was in Paris, ministers were discussing her future in London. "Something happened while I was away that night. There were various meetings all over the place in London. I could not be there."

She returned the next day and it still seemed she would have a good chance, but then, she said: "It is very strange if you see a situation slipping away from you. I am a politician. I know. I can feel it. I can sense it. Some people whom I expected to be absolutely staunch had very different views and said 'Look, I will support you but I do not think it is a foregone conclusion'."

According to close friends, Mrs Thatcher finally made her decision to leave the Commons early this month when she returned from the Soviet Union. Since then, discreet plans have been made for the announcement. Yesterday tributes rained down on Britain's first woman prime minister. Mr Major said her departure would be a sad loss for the Commons, but not the end of her contribution to political life. She would be remembered as a "very great British prime minister", but Neil Kinnock said Thatcherism was "extremely destructive" for Britain and he would not miss her.

The Thatcher years, page 2, 3  
Interview, page 12

## Tears as Tory women are told the news

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TEARS, sighs and a single cry of "shame" came from Margaret Thatcher's most loyal band of supporters over the years, her fellow Tory women, as they heard that she was stepping down. However, few of the 1,000 at their annual conference doubted that she had made the right decision.

They applauded Chris Patten, the party chairman, as he talked of the many opportunities to pay appropriate tributes to the "greatest prime minister in our political history".

Jane Rowe, from Kingston and Malden, said that Mrs

Thatcher was freeing herself from the constraints of the Commons. "She has got some very valid ideas and I do not want to see her persistently billed as a challenge to John Major. In the Commons her comments are bound to be related to what he is saying."

Doreen Miller, who wept, said: "I think she is one of the greatest prime ministers this country has ever had."

Few ministers referred to Mrs Thatcher in their platform speeches during the two-day conference.

Conference report, page 7

## Beatle's musical road from cavern to cathedral

By RONALD FAUX



Davis: commissioned the oratorio two years ago

PAUL MCCARTNEY, failed chorister and famous Beatle, returned last night to the Anglican cathedral in Liverpool that turned down his musical talents 38 years ago to hear the first performance of his Liverpool oratorio which he wrote with conductor Carl Davis.

The performance in the majestic building was a climax to the 150th anniversary celebrations of the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Society, which commissioned McCartney to produce the work two years ago in the days when he was unsure what precisely an oratorio was.

The oratorio marks a dramatic change from the brief but powerful popular songs that made the Beatles renowned. It

lasts an hour and a half and is arranged for 200 voices and the entire Philharmonic orchestra. The musician who has done so much to make Liverpool a mecca for popular songs was nervous yesterday about how this departure into classical music would be accepted, even with the skills of Dame Kiri Te Kanawa to smooth the way. But he explained how the long and winding road which began at the Cavern, the Liverpool club where the Beatles first played, had led to the cathedral.

Carl Davis, he said, had been searching for ideas for the 150th anniversary celebrations. "I started telling him anecdotes about Liverpool. I told him I was born there during the war and he wrote that down. I always thought it was

a big decision to have a child during the war, so that became the basis for the first movement, the idea of hopefulness in all this chaos.

"In truth I did not know what we were writing. I knew it would have to be serious. In Carl's mind there were thoughts of me being in it, but I declined."

The oratorio was about Liverpool life, not his life, he explained, and began with the motto of the Liverpool Institute, where he went to school and which he has helped to restore as a centre for the performing arts: *Non nobis solum sed toti mundo nati* - We are not born for ourselves alone but for the whole world.

Photograph, page 5

## Confusion over ceasefire as fighting rages in Slovenia

From TIM JUDAH IN LJUBLJANA

FIGHTING raged across Slovenia yesterday several hours after Belgrade announced a unilateral ceasefire.

The ceasefire was announced by the Yugoslav federal prime minister, Ante Markovic, who declared that the army had accomplished its objective of seizing Slovenia's international frontier crossings. It was unclear whether the fighting was continuing because Yugoslav military units were being attacked, because they were out of control, or because ceasefire orders had not reached them.

The confusion came after a day in which the conflict had entered a new phase as the Yugoslav air force went into action for the first time. Jets rocketed Ljubljana and Maribor airports and there were also reports of bombing raids on Slovene roadblocks in which several people were reported killed. Aircraft strafed a convoy of civilian trucks on a main road near Trebnje, killing seven people.

"Army planes are bombing columns of civilian cars at border crossings," the Slovenian interior minister, Igor Bavcar, said in a radio broadcast. "The army has authorisation to open fire at will. I appeal to you to restrict your movement and follow the directions of the competent security organs."

At Ljubljana's Brnik airport three buildings were damaged by the air attack and planes belonging to the Slovene airline Adria were also hit. Gaping holes in the airport main hangar bore testimony to the attack and fuel leaked from aircraft which had also been strafed with gunfire.

Eight vehicles in the car park had been destroyed and were still smoking an hour and a half after the attack. Jets roared low over the airport, gunfire could be heard coming from the edge of the runway and two Austrian photographers were reported killed at the airport when their Jeep was fired on from a tank.

A few miles away the road was blocked by smouldering buses, but it was unclear who had been holding the checkpoint. On Thursday, the Yugoslav military had been in control of the barricade. At the nearby village of Motic residents were inspecting the remains of a Yugoslav tank which had broken down on

Thursday morning. It had been blown apart and its gun turret lay ten yards away. Zagreb airport was closed. Mr Markovic's proposal for a three-month moratorium on both Slovenia and Croatia's declarations of independence was rejected by Dr France Bucar, president of the Slovene parliament. "We are flexible but we cannot negotiate on the question of independence... we cannot sacrifice something we have had to fight for," he said.

Earlier Slovene officials had said that they would not negotiate with Belgrade before Yugoslav units operating in Slovenia had returned to their barracks. However, they agreed to meet European Community representatives.

Arms bonanza, page 9

## EC sends team to mediate in Belgrade

From GEORGE BROCK IN LUXEMBOURG

THREE European foreign ministers flew to Yugoslavia last night in an attempt to chair peace talks between the federal government and the two secessionist republics.

The European summit's discussions about political and monetary union were overshadowed by the Yugoslav conflict. After meeting for only an hour, the European Community leaders and their foreign ministers agreed to send a delegation to Belgrade as signs emerged that the federal Yugoslav authorities were ready to allow their attempt at mediation. The community also froze all financial aid to the federal government. Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, described events in Yugoslavia as "highly dangerous".

The Dutch, Italian and Luxembourg foreign ministers delayed their departure until it was clear that a Slovene delegation could travel freely.

Continued on page 24, col 4

Major plea, page 8

## Gallantry awards given to 200 Gulf servicemen

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

MORE than 800 men and women, military and civilian, who played a part in the Gulf war have been awarded medals and other honours. Two of the 200 gallantry awards to servicemen were posthumous, one of them to a young SAS corporal killed on a secret mission behind enemy lines.

Many of the senior commanders in the three services received medals. However, younger and less experienced servicemen who displayed courage, some attempting to save their colleagues, were also included in the honours list, published yesterday in the *London Gazette*.

A total of 811 awards were made, of which 632 were for the military. Although there were no Victoria Crosses, there were three Distinguished Service Orders, eight Military Crosses and eight Military Medals among the 369 awards listed for the army. The Royal Navy won a total of 99 awards, the RAF 164.

The highest proportion of awards goes to the special forces, who are praised for their outstanding contribution towards the successful allied campaign. Although there are no published citations attached to their medals, Air

Chief Marshal Sir Patrick Hine, joint commander of British forces during the war, paid tribute to their courage in a separate Gulf dispatch published yesterday.

Corporal David Denbury, aged 26, one of the four SAS men who died in the war, was awarded a Military Medal. Fifty-one other members of the army, navy and RAF special forces were given

Continued on page 24, col 7

Gulf honours, page 11  
Saturday review, page 10

## Bush war team ready

From PETER STOTHARD, US EDITOR, IN WASHINGTON

AMERICA moved closer yesterday to reopening hostilities against Iraq to prevent President Saddam Hussein from producing nuclear weapons.

After an emergency White House meeting with senior military advisers, President Bush said that the Iraqi leader, whom he called "this brutal bully", had violated the Gulf war ceasefire terms by preventing United Nations' access to nuclear sites. The evidence of Iraqi violations

#### THE GULF MEDALS

NAVY	
Distinguished Service Cross	7
Military Cross	1
Air Force Cross	1
Conspicuous Gallantry Medal	1
Distinguished Service Medal	2
Queen's Commendation	1
Mention in Despatches	23
ARMY	
Distinguished Service Order	3
Military Cross	2
Distinguished Conduct Medal	8
Military Medal	1
Air Force Medal	1
Queen's Gallantry Medal	1
Queen's Commendation	1
Mention in Despatches	87
RAF	
Distinguished Service Order	5
Distinguished Flying Cross	12
Air Force Cross	4
Distinguished Flying Medal	1
Mention in Despatches	27

#### INSIDE

### IRA bombing attempt fails

A 30lb IRA bomb failed to explode outside a London hall during a concert by the band of the Blues and Royals. Scotland Yard said the bomb might have malfunctioned or the bomber may have been disturbed before he could prime the device. Page 24

### Burton cuts jobs

Burton Group is cutting 1,600 jobs nationwide, and forecasts a loss of £166 million for this year. The group, formerly chaired by Sir Ralph Halpern, is freezing pay from the boardroom to the shopfloor. Page 25

### Farquhar guilty

Wing Commander David Farquhar has been sentenced to be reprimanded after a court martial found him guilty of negligence. Gulf war secrets were stolen from his car last December. Page 5

### Chadli quits

President Chadli Benjedid of Algeria has resigned as head of the ruling National Liberation Front and sacked his cabinet, as Muslim fundamentalists threatened a holy war. Page 10

### Reeve called up

Dermot Reeve, the Warwickshire all-rounder, is in the 13-man England squad for the third Test match. Page 38

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# Pride of Britain tainted with a vein of prejudice

Her political prowess has rarely been called into doubt, but John Grigg finds that stigmas on Europe and the State will be long remembered as weak links in the Iron Lady's armoury

Margaret Thatcher is not only our first woman prime minister, she is also our first prime minister to have had a science degree. For this double alone her place in history is secure, although in both respects India beat us to it, Indira Gandhi having been prime minister before Mrs Thatcher and Nehru being a science graduate.

History is not, however, Mrs Thatcher's subject. Indeed it is hard to think of any British prime minister with a more deficient sense of it. Her very limited understanding of the past has been a strength in some ways, because it has enabled her to give free rein to her radical instincts, without any of the doubts that greater historical awareness would have raised in her mind. But on the whole it has been a grave weakness, and the cause of many of her worst mistakes.

Her long period of rule was marked by the reckless destruction of many institutions, and a remarkable failure to build new ones or to adapt and reform those inherited from the past. Local government was clobbered and far more power gathered to the centre — by a leader who was, theoretically, committed to decreasing the state's power.

Our most political institution, parliament itself, was not reformed by her at all, but used and exploited in the traditional manner. The same is true of the honours system, a national scandal which she made, if anything, more scandalous. An electoral system which grossly distorts the will of the people and which has caused disastrous oscillations of policy since the second world war never attracted her radical attention, because it returned her to power with thumping Commons majorities, though on a minority vote in the country. The people never voted for the socialist excesses under which they suffered for a number of years. Equally, they never voted for "Thatcherism".

The concept is, in fact, absurd, and does Mrs Thatcher less than justice, because she had never been an ideologue but rather a tough and skilful politician who has often disappointed her supposed ideological gurus. Not long after she first came to power, one of them, F.A. Hayek wrote despairingly to *The Times* to say her government would fail in its attempt to introduce a free market economy so long as trade union privileges were maintained in any shape or form.

Mrs Thatcher undoubtedly



Friends for life: an embrace from Ronald Reagan



Reluctant friends: strains with M Mitterrand



Friendly advice: Thatcher with Chancellor Kohl

clipped her power of the trade unions but she went about the job rather carefully and never tried to abolish the rights of trade unions wholesale. Though relatively free from ideological principle, she has not, alas, been free from prejudice. One of her prejudices which has been most apparent lately is against the European Community. In spite of the pragmatism of her

powers with zest) was a curious and deviant feature of her leadership. The Tory party had previously stood for the state, including, where necessary, state ownership and enterprise. And in the 19th century, it was the Liberals, rather than the Tories, who preached indiscriminately and practised the opposite doctrine. Mrs Thatcher's attitude to public services was flawed by her belief that they would be better privatised, or at any rate forced to behave as though they were fighting for their lives in a free market.

Instead of inspiring those who worked in them, to feel that they were public servants with a high duty to their fellow citizens, and in return highly regarded, she made them feel low and almost disreputable, sapping their morale and making them, of course, less rather than more efficient.

Yet there is much to admire in her record. Beyond question, she restored Britain's reputation in the world, by her ability to say "no" to disruptive forces at home and by the firmness of her stand against Soviet tyranny, not to mention her defeat of a Latin American dictator and the restoration of freedom to his country. Her assertion of the rights of private property, though often carried to excess, was in large measure justified as a corrective to years of socialist dogmatism and penal taxation.

If she could have combined her policy of selling council houses to their occupants, and of cutting personal taxes, with a suitable recognition of the need for public provision and public services, she would deserve all the praise that has been lavished on her.

As it is, she deserves much, though by no means all of that praise. Perhaps her finest contribution was in being so quick to perceive the potential of Mr Gorbachev, and in doing so much to encourage it. In Eastern Europe she is rightly hailed as a liberator.

Whatever her ultimate rating as a British prime minister, nobody can deny that she held the job down, or that she discharged it with extraordinary energy, courage and panache. Her speeches may have been written by others, but her style was all her own, and it was a memorable style.

Thatcherism may be a myth, but Thatcher herself is a genuine and potent reality.

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Leading article, page 13  
Diary, page 13



Leading from the front: at the height of her powers, Mrs Thatcher commanding the 1990 Tory party conference

## Why she chose this moment to go Stepping down to help Major

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

ON Wednesday night, after her breathtaking speech in the Commons debate on Europe, Margaret Thatcher went to a meeting of her ideological soulmates in the No Turning Back group and was ecstatically praised for her contribution.

Both before and after that meeting Tory MPs stopped to congratulate her and several pleaded with her to stay on. They were not to know that she had already made her decision at the beginning of the month, after she had returned from her trip to the Soviet Union.

In a pause in her interview with ITN yesterday about her decision to retire from the Commons, Mrs Thatcher de-

clared: "I'm free, I'm free." Asked what she meant, she said she was free to speak her mind. It was clearly also an explosion of relief because she had made up her mind.

Her family and her most trusted confidants have been aware since January that she was likely to leave the Commons.

Since then, as she acknowledged yesterday, she has been assailed with conflicting advice from friends and from her Finchley constituents, views to which she naturally wished to give consideration. According to some friends her opinion has often changed day by day during these past six months and has usually been in direct contrast to the latest

advice she has received. According to friends, she and they have agonised over the timing. She wanted to give time for her successor at Finchley to be chosen and to prepare for a general election. Had an election been called in June she would almost certainly have stood, it was confirmed last night.

She was also anxious to avoid announcing her de-



Tears for Thatcher: at the Tory women's conference

cision at a time when the press or her opponents could have construed it as a gesture against Mr Major. The removal of June as an option and the discovery on that Soviet Union visit of the status she retains as a world statesman helped to convince her to go.

The main reason, however, was her desire to speak out in a way that would not harm her successor. She believed that she had to make clear beyond doubt that she did not think she would ever be prime minister again, and that she did want to be. That meant a declaration that she was going. As she said yesterday: "I think making this decision now, as far as national politics is concerned, makes it quite clear that unlike some people are saying, I have no intention of going back to No 10."

A friend said: "Whenever she spoke it was being seen in terms of whether it was settling or unsettling to Mr Major."

She told the prime minister of her decision a few days ago and confirmed it in a telephone call to his private office at No 10 yesterday morning. Gerald Howarth, MP for Cannock and Burntwood, who has acted as an unofficial aide for Mrs Thatcher in the Commons since she stood down in November, said that colleagues had been asking him to tell her to stay on. "I made no secret of the fact that I hoped she would," he said. "I thought she had laid the ghost on Wednesday. She came into the chamber conscious of the criticism of her. At relatively short notice and with characteristic courage she took the bull by the horns and delivered a quite magnificent speech."

"Many of us felt that far from damaging the government's cause she had made its tasks much easier by crystallising the issues. It was a great success and she had a wonderful response."

Henry Kissinger, former US Secretary of State, called her decision characteristically wise and forthright.

Mrs Thatcher's loyal sup-

Successor laments loss to the Commons of a formidable politician

## Major leads the glowing tributes

By OUR CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Major declared yesterday that Margaret Thatcher would go down as a "very great prime minister" and that her departure would be a sad loss to the Commons.

The prime minister, attending the European summit in Luxembourg, said she was a formidable politician who had always spoken her mind, and was right to speak her mind.

Mr Major led a procession of senior Tories paying tribute to his predecessor. Chris Patten, the party chairman, said: "She was one of the greatest prime ministers in our history. Her three administrations rose to the challenges of the time. It is imperative we safeguard those achievements. I am sure she will still have a formidable role to play on the world stage with her unrivalled experience of international affairs."

Kenneth Clarke, education secretary, said: "It seems to me that she should move to have a more comfortable platform in the House of Lords, where I am sure she will use the platform to make her views clear on the great issues."

Norman Tebbit, a former party chairman, said: "Agree with her or disagree with her, it cannot be denied that it was

under her leadership that the spectre of an ungovernable nation has been exorcised. In time, perhaps before long, it will be her vision of Europe which will be seen to be right."

The Opposition leader was less generous. Neil Kinnock said Mrs Thatcher was bowing out of Parliament to avoid "certain defeat" at the next general election. He said he would not miss her and that Thatcherism had been "extremely destructive" to the future of Britain.

"She is not going to risk losing her seat or returning to the opposition benches. She has concluded that it is better to bow out now than to face certain defeat. It is one of her wisest judgments."

Mr Kinnock forecast that Labour would win Finchley at the general election, based on the last council results there. "I think Mrs Thatcher will now begin to fade in real political significance and there will be a general benefit as a consequence."

Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, said that while he never supported Mrs Thatcher's politics he admired her tenacity, courage and determination. "The Commons will be the poorer for her

absence. Politics today needs more people who have a clear view of where they want to go, are prepared to speak their minds and stick to their principles."

Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, who from the back benches prompted Mrs Thatcher's downfall by opposing her for the Tory party leadership last year, said: "She has made a remarkable contribution to British history in the 80s. This is a departure of someone who has made a remarkable impact on the Commons."

Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, said: "She certainly is not going to disappear and she will continue to be a world figure and world leader." Mr Baker, who served as Mrs Thatcher's party chairman, added: "She has made a remarkable contribution to British politics — 30 years as an MP, 15 of those as leader of her party, and 11 as prime minister."

Alan Clark, a defence minister, said: "I respect her judgment, but I regret it. I would like to have seen her stay on. She enriches Parliament, she performed in Parliament like no one else."

Mrs Thatcher's loyal sup-

porters in the United States, where the general orthodoxy remains that she was treated shabbily last November, expressed regret for the end of an era but little surprise at her decision.

"She's too big for Parliament," said one long-time Thatcher admirer at the White House who has close ties to President Bush's more conservative staff.

Sir Alan Walters, a former economic adviser to Mrs Thatcher, said that her decision to step down was on the whole a good one, although he rued the passing of a "rather remarkable era. She would never have been a seething mass of resentment like Heath," he said. But she would have had trouble curbing her ideas to fit the loyalty required in the Commons.

Henry Catto, the outspoken Texan who recently returned to America from his post as ambassador in London, said: "She's just a force of nature," recalling her "amusingly frank" admonitions to the bearers of unwelcome messages from Washington.

Henry Kissinger, former US Secretary of State, called her decision characteristically wise and forthright.

Mrs Thatcher's loyal sup-

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Retirement can be bitter for former prime ministers seeking a new role

## Iron Lady misses grip on power

By DENNIS KAVANAGH

MARGARET Thatcher's imminent retirement from the House of Commons is no surprise to her friends. She had not spoken from the back benches for about 30 years until her downfall, and although she said she would miss its debate and companionship, the Commons as a "club" has never appealed to her. She was toppled, at the height of her powers, not by the electorate or a vote in Parliament, but by the votes of her colleagues.

For Mrs Thatcher, the perceived unfairness of her exit hurts, and visits to the Commons rub salt into the wounds. She loved power more than the game of politics; without it, the Commons is no place for her. She is having to come to terms with the changes in her life since the removal van drew up outside Number 10 and the flow of red boxes ceased. A short time ago, her private office could contact anybody in the world; today she makes her own calls. It is an anti-climax after her role in shaping history. Gladstone spoke of his "political death" after he left Number 10. Harold Macmillan complained of living "a life after death" after he resigned in 1963.

A prime minister's retirement can last a long time. Balfour, Lloyd George, Eden and Harold Macmillan lived for over 20 years after leaving office. Lord Home retired as prime minister 26 years ago. A prime minister's obituary, however, is virtually complete on leaving office.

Former prime ministers have sought recognition and a role in different ways. Few have been happy spending more time with their families. Asquith, having been dumped in 1916, led the Liberals until 1926, and entertained hopes of a recall. His declining years were spent close to penury, however, and he watched with

envy as Lloyd George and Winston Churchill, two of his former cabinet subordinates, acquired vast sums of money.

Baldwin retired in the aftermath of his handling of the abdication of Edward VIII in 1937. But the public vilified him when appeasement was seen to fail in the run-up to the second world war. His last years were sad and lonely.

Lloyd George helped to shape history in the first world war. He became an international celebrity, and rich, through his journalism and books, but in 1940 he was seen as defeatist and a possible leader of a compromised peace. Winston Churchill collected honours and royalties after he left office in 1955, before lapsing into a tragic senility that made him, as Lord Moran said, chief mourner at his own protracted funeral.

Balfour relinquished the premiership in 1905 and Tory party leadership in 1911. He returned, however, to hold numerous high offices during the war and in the 1920s. Lord Home, after standing down as party leader in 1963, became foreign secretary in the Heath government. Crucially, neither Balfour nor Lord Home so wanted to be prime minister that nothing else would do.

Harold Macmillan busied himself in retirement with the family publishing firm, writing his memoirs, and as Chancellor of Oxford University. His sense of despair at the mood of the country in the mid-1970s led him to talk about the need for a government of national unity. Some observers thought that he was suggesting a role for himself.

Ted Heath, having lost the leadership to Mrs Thatcher in 1975, also hoped for vindication. He has remained in the Commons, and his interventions were tantamount to a denial of the legitimacy of Mrs Thatcher's leadership since



Dudley in the mid-1970s: battling against Heath

## Finchley's feelings are mixed

By JOE JOSEPH

HOW stands Finchley? If there was wailing and spilling of pearls upon the ground, it was muffled by the net curtains that guard the windows of the Finchley and Friern Barnet Conservative and Unionist Association.

The only sign of Margaret Thatcher there yesterday afternoon was a large poster of her in the bay window of the association's Edwardian end-of-terrace, alongside a big poster of John Major. It looked as though banners were being posted for an improbable marriage of local Tory bigwigs. In the town, opinion was mixed.

"It's just a passing thing," Christopher Arnold, who runs a fruit and vegetable stall in central Finchley, said. "People come and people go."

Colin McCormack, a young banker, said: "She's a spent force. She hasn't spent any time here since she stepped down as prime minister. She's spent more time in the US. She did well while she was in power, but she's had her time. Now we're looking for somebody new. And it's not Major."

Roy Langstone, president of the Finchley Conservative Association, said: "I'm very disappointed, of course. It's her decision, so we'll stick by it. She's a wonderful person. Everybody loves her. She was a very good constituency MP, devoted to her job."

Freddie Fisher, senior warden of the Finchley synagogue, said: "We have lost a great statesman. She put Finchley on the map. There is great sadness here in Finchley."

He added: "I have known Mrs Thatcher for many years. I would have liked her to stay on. She was always very helpful, very considerate. She is very kind. And she is a good listener."

Sarah Redhead, aged 23, who is unemployed, was blunt. "I hated her. She's done so many bad things for the country, especially for people around my age."

Stanley Dell, aged 74, was equally straightforward. "Damn good job," he said. "It's time she went."



Victorious wave: polling night June 1987 and Mrs Thatcher celebrates her third term as prime minister



Contrasts: scenting victory in the Falklands in 1983 and, right, fighting on after the Brighton bombing in 1984

## The sayings for which she will long be remembered

I wasn't lucky, I deserved it - on receiving a poetry prize, aged nine.

I usually make up my mind about a man in 10 seconds - and I rarely change it - 1970.

In politics if you want anything done, ask a man. But if you want anything done, ask a woman - 1970.

I don't think in my lifetime there will be a woman prime minister - 1971.

I've no idea why people keep attacking me - 1972, as education secretary (the milk-satcher).

People seem to think that because I'm a Cabinet minister, I have whole droves of servants to do everything... I have a woman who comes in in the mornings, and that's it - 1973.

It will be years, and not in my time, before a woman will lead the party or become prime minister - August 1974, six months before being elected Conservative party leader.

I am a builder, not a destroyer - 1975.

Let me give you my vision: a man's right to work as he will, to spend what he earns, to own



1943: Somerville student property, to have the state as servant and not as master: these are the British inheritance. They are the essence of a free country, and on that freedom all other freedoms depend - 1975.

I'm the general; you're the troops - 1978, on being given advice on how to choose her Cabinet.

There are times when I get home at night and everything has got on top of me, and I shed a few tears... silently and alone - 1978.

Where there is discord, may we bring harmony. Where there is error, may we bring truth. Where there is doubt, may we bring faith. Where

there is despair, may we bring hope - On her election to the position of prime minister, May 4 1979, she quoted St Francis of Assisi.

U-turn if you want to; the lady is not for turning - October 1980, party conference.

I always worry when Mark is driving, but he's a very good driver, very steady and very cool. You cannot tie your children to your apron strings - 1981.

The NHS is safe in our hands - Oct 1982, party conference. Failure? The possibility does not exist - 1982, on the risks of sending British troops to the Falklands.

I like Mr Gorbachev. We can do business together - 1984, on meeting President Gorbachev for the first time.

Why Marks & Spencer of

Rejoice, just rejoice! - 1982, on hearing that British troops had just retaken South Georgia.

I never thought of myself as a war leader. We shall, I hope, never have to live through another three months like this - 1982.

I am extraordinarily patient, provided I get my own way in the end - 1983.

We shall carry on as usual - 1984, after the IRA bomb attack in Brighton.

I like Mr Gorbachev. We can do business together - 1984, on meeting President Gorbachev for the first time.

Why Marks & Spencer of



1967: in Shadow Cabinet course. Doesn't everyone? - 1986, on being asked where she bought her underwear.

I don't mind how much my ministers talk, as long as they do what I say - 1987.

Obviously one isn't indestructible... quite - 1988.

When I look at him, and he looks at me, I don't feel that it is a man looking at a woman. More like a woman looking at another man - 1990, her view on Edward Heath, as quoted by the former Sunday Express editor Sir John Junor.

I do wish I had brought my chequebook. I do not believe in credit cards - March 1990, at the Ideal Home Exhibition.

the day before the budget.

I fight on, I fight to win - November 21, 1990, after failing to win the first Conservative leadership election ballot outright.

It's a funny old world - November 22, 1990, after standing down from the second ballot in the leadership contest.

He won't falter and I shan't falter. It's just that I shan't be pulling the levers there. But I shall be a very good back-seat driver - her response to what role she would play following John Major's election as prime minister.



1983: on cover of Time

Robin Oakley on 12 years in the wake of a warrior

## Triumph of sheer will, zest and personality

EVEN before Margaret Thatcher spoke in this week's Commons debate on Europe, Douglas Hurd had the measure of what was to come. Sometimes, he said, he felt like a foot soldier in a war chronicled by Homer or Virgil whose prosaic tasks would be interrupted suddenly by interventions from on high as the fabled gods "or even goddesses" discharged their thunderbolts.

He added, of course, that when the thunder and lightning of the great ones died away "those of us on the ground have to get on with the work".

For a while, reporting politics after Margaret Thatcher will seem like that, for her career has been a triumph not so much of a particular ideology or aim as one of sheer will and personality. The political obituaries when she lost her premiership forgot the sheer zest.

Those of us who have trailed around the world in her wake

these last dozen years know that she did not owe her clout as a world statesman to her mix of Friedmanite economics and Grantham corner-shop philosophy. With her soulmate Ronald Reagan and her sparring partner Mikhail Gorbachev there was a personal chemistry. They responded, as all of us have done, to the sheer energy force.

It was Roy Jenkins who recalled, in writing about Mrs Thatcher, Jean Monnet's aphorism that politicians can be divided into those who want to do something and those who want to be something. Margaret Thatcher, warrior not healer, has always been a doer.

One always looked forward to an interview with her with a strange mixture of dread and exhilaration. You knew that if a loose phrase about "society" or some modish jargon escaped your lips she would pounce and skewer you to your chair. Occasionally

your question would press the button on a new enthusiasm and she would be unstoppable for 15 minutes. To the despair of the assembled world press corps, I did it once, accidentally, at an economic summit press conference limited to half an hour. But always, you knew, that restlessness, that desire to move and shake, would give you a story.

It was the sheer professionalism of a woman who shared the black and white certainties of a tabloid newspaper columnist.

She has, I believe, an exaggerated respect for intellect which explains the desire for independent advisers like Sir Alan Walters which led her into so much trouble and her occasional promotion of men she would never have qualified under her "is he one of us" test - Reggie Maundling, Ian Gilmour, Chris Patten.

There is the instinctive show-



Mrs Thatcher, with Robin Oakley, right, imitates Janet Brown

manship that she developed as a deliberate extension of her own personality. Planting a tree at a Korean university, aged over 60 and in the midday sun, she did not content herself with the token pat of earth. Instead she set to like a navvy, sending 20 spadefuls flying into the hole and crying: "There's a bit of British productivity for you."

As she walked down the path afterwards with bemused contractors and academicians I heard her telling them: "Just make sure you water it now."

Maybe Margaret Thatcher's role in the raising of the Iron

Curtain and the freeing of eastern Europe is oversold. But her firmness on Cruise missiles did speed the process. No one could have gone into the Solidarity church amid the Gdansk shipyards with her or watched her being mobbed by the Babushkas from Moscow high rise flats after she had "lit a candle for peace" at the Zgorski monastery in 1987 without realising what a potent symbol she had become for them. She may have lost Wales and Scotland for the Tories but she could have had eastern Europe as well.

Of course, she has her in-

consistencies. She has indulged her cruelties. Her freezing out of the foreign secretary Francis Pym at the Williamsburg summit in 1987 still makes one wriggle with embarrassment at the memory. Her below-the-table applause along with the hangers and floggers at a Tory conference when her ever-loyal ally Willie Whitelaw was being given a hard time, was a disgrace. Her obvious consultation of her watch at a Euro summit press conference as Geoffrey Howe sought a brief intervention was a cheap gesture.

Humour has never figured largely in her repertoire. I do recall her, however, how on the RAF VC10 back from Washington at Christmas 1984 after she had shattered us all with a China-Hong Kong-America trip of 26,000 miles in six days, high as a kite on adrenalin with just a touch of Johnnie Walker Blue Label, giving a very good impression of Janet Brown doing an impression of her.

The lack of pleasure in diverse cultures and the arts was painfully apparent. Never could she be beguiled into diversions from duty as we passed by the treasures of the world's heritage. Always it was another sludge pump factory or British council outpost to be visited.

But there is a warmth and a concern for others which is not

often mentioned. As a manager of people at Cabinet level her record was poor. But I have rarely encountered a member of her personal staff who does not express undying devotion. I have seen her in her office, late at night, chivvying staff to return to their families when she was settling in for three hours' work on a speech.

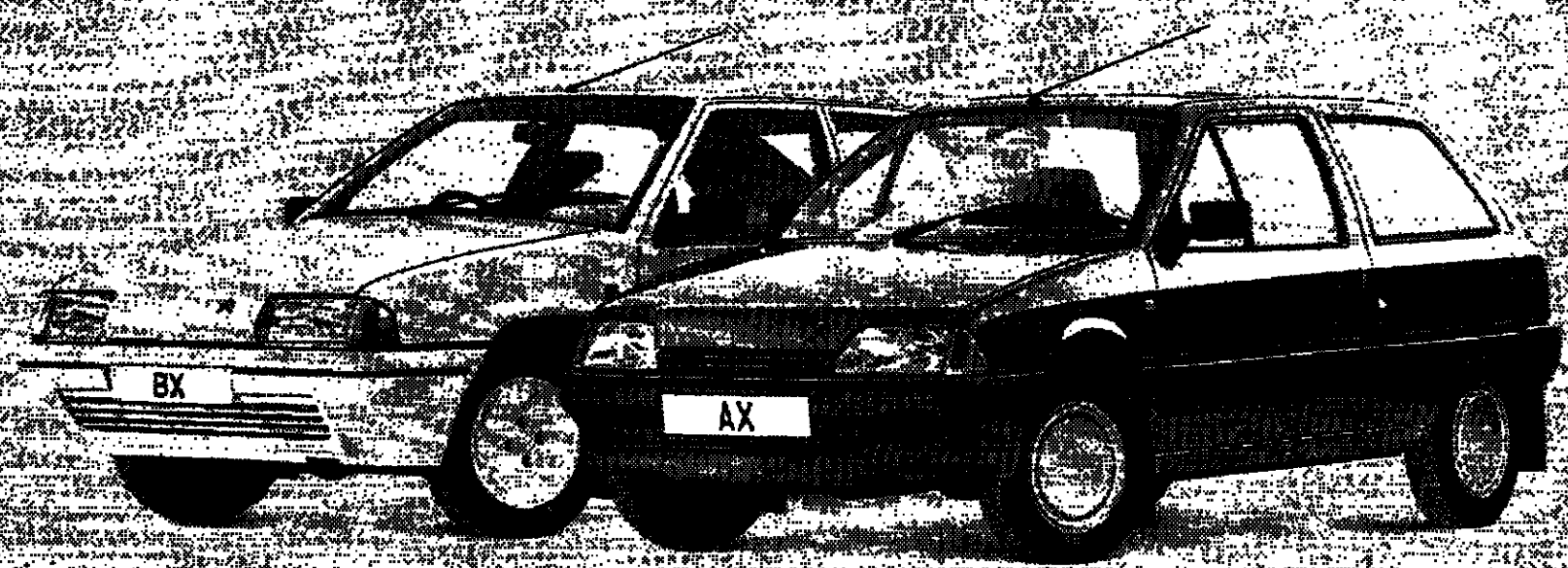
She made it rough at the top, however. Many times in the early years of her premiership I remember Tory MPs saying how they dreaded her arrival at a constituency visit. "All my people are asking 'Oh those hats. That voice. Whatever will we say to her?' After the visit, it was a different tune: 'Do you know, she had found out just who had licked envelopes for 25 years and baked the cakes. She remembered everybody's name, and charmed them all. Now they are rounding on me and saying 'Why ever didn't you tell us she was like that?'"

Pros and cons, warts and beauty spots, there has never been a British political leader quite like Margaret Thatcher. The problem for John Major and others still to come is that, for a generation or two, she will be the yardstick. And whatever their separate qualities, every politician after her will seem like a man or woman of compromises.



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## Gulf secrets officer to forfeit five years of seniority

By PETER VICTOR

WING Commander David Farquhar, who was charged with negligence after secret Gulf war plans were stolen from his car, was found guilty yesterday at a court martial in Uxbridge, west London. He was stripped of five years' seniority and severely reprimanded but he did not lose his rank.

After a five-day trial the court martial's five-man panel deliberated for over an hour before convicting Wing Cdr Farquhar of conduct to the prejudice of good order and RAF discipline.

The documents and a laptop computer were stolen in three briefcases taken from the wing commander's unmarked staff car last December after he and his driver stopped to look in a car showroom on the A40 at Acton, west London. All the material was recovered later.

At that time, Wing Cdr Farquhar had been personal staff officer to Air Chief Marshal Sir Patrick Hine, the joint commander in chief of British forces in the Gulf.

The court heard again yesterday that in the months before the loss of the documents

Wing Cdr Farquhar had been working 15 hours a day and had been taking sleeping tablets. The court was told that he had suffered an anxiety attack just before putting the documents in the boot of the car, from where they were stolen.

Cherry Farquhar, in court to hear the verdict on her husband, sat impassive as Group Captain Peter Jeffers, the panel's president, announced its decision. Wing Cdr Farquhar sat facing the panel as the verdict was announced. The court martial



Farquhar: "I regret this incident most deeply"

heard statements from RAF medical staff and character references from Sir Patrick and three other senior RAF officers.

Nicholas Valios, QC, for the defence, read a statement to the court outlining Wing Cdr Farquhar's troubled mental state at the time of the incident, saying he hoped that the panel would take this into consideration and pass the minimum possible sentence.

In Sir Patrick's statement, which Mr Valios read to the court, Wing Cdr Farquhar was described as an officer who had quite rightly been on the fast track and had been expected to achieve senior rank within the RAF. All the testimonials said that Wing Cdr Farquhar should be allowed to remain in the service. The panel considered these submissions before passing sentence.

Asked by Group Captain Jeffers if he had anything to say to the court after the verdict, Wing Cdr Farquhar said: "I regret most deeply this incident and will do so until my dying day. I can only say that at the time I was absolutely exhausted."

## Scare that became a nightmare

THE theft of the "Crown Jewels" from the boot of Wing Commander David Farquhar's car gave allied commanders the worst scare of the Gulf war. For three weeks they had no idea whether the deception plan devised by General Norman Schwarzkopf, the allied commander, was in the hands of the Iraqis.

Fortunately for the allies, the theft of the lap-top computer containing the secret plan was carried out by an opportunist thief, known only as Andrew, who posted it back to the defence ministry with a cheeky message suggesting that the man responsible for the loss should be hanged.

General Schwarzkopf's plan deceived the Iraqis into believing that the main allied thrust would come with an amphibious landing and ac-

All he had to do was order his driver to stay with the car. Such a basic mistake led to David Farquhar's downfall. Michael Evans reports

cross the Saudi/Kuwaiti border to the east, when in reality the principal attacking force of American, British and French troops crossed into Iraq well to the west.

Wing Commander Farquhar's nightmare began when he emerged from the car showroom in Acton, west London, and saw the smashed windows of his Vauxhall Carlton and the rear seat pulled down. At that moment, he realised that his whole career and the trust of Air Chief Marshal Sir Patrick Hine, his boss, were destroyed.

Sir Patrick appeared as a prosecution witness at the court martial and agreed that the long hours at the Operation Granby command bunker at RAF Strike Command, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, and the frequent trips to Washington and the Gulf had taken their toll. He emphasized that all his staff were working the same long hours. But the job of personal staff officer was "one of the hardest in the RAF". Wing Com-

mander Farquhar, aged 45, had been a personal staff officer once before and had vowed never to do the job again. But when he was selected by Sir Patrick in December 1989, he agreed to take on the appointment.

During the Gulf war, among other duties, he was the link man between Sir Patrick and General Schwarzkopf's staff in Riyadh. After the fateful theft he became so remorseful that Sir Patrick invited him and his wife for drinks on Christmas Eve to try to cheer him up.

Although there was considerable sympathy for him, there was also surprise that an officer of his calibre and of his seniority was capable of making such a basic mistake.

As he himself admitted in interviews with Special Branch and the security services, all he had to do was order the driver, Corporal Philip Bromley, to stay with the car while he wandered round the showroom. To this day he cannot understand why he failed to give the order.

## Ulster's top security Maze prison may close

A DECISION on whether to close Northern Ireland's top security Maze prison, the scene of republican hunger strikes in 1981, and build a new £70 million jail, is expected in the next few months.

Lord Belstead, Northern Ireland prisons minister, launching a strategy yesterday for the province's prison service, said that a decision had yet to be taken on the Maze and a report was being prepared by prison officials. The signs are, however, that the jail, which costs £40 million a year to run, will be closed.

The Northern Ireland office wants to phase out segregation of republican and loyalist inmates, which still exists at

the Maze, so that prisoners serve their sentences free from paramilitary influence. Forced segregation has, however, resulted in trouble in other jails.

Lord Belstead said that the Maze, which holds a quarter of the prison population, accounted for a third of prisoners resources. The number of prisoners there has fallen from 1,340 in 1981 to 500 today.

Much as his legal superiors may have wished it to be true, those who knew him best were unconvinced. Within the hour he had disrobed, packed away his battered wig and walked next door, to Bradford county court, to deliver a comprehensive indictment of much of the legal profession, the British judicial system and the prisons.

Judge Pickles, aged 66, officially retires on Monday after 45 years in the law. The next time he picks up his pen will not be to write a judgment but to compose, for an undisclosed fee, a weekly column for *The Sun*, the Gazette of the front pages, as someone quickly christened him yesterday.

He made clear that there was no chance of changing the views, or his manner of



Fab two: Dame Kiri Te Kanawa with Paul McCartney at Liverpool's Anglican cathedral yesterday, rehearsing for the performance of his oratorio. Report, page 1

## Saunders freed on parole

By PAUL WILKINSON

ERNEST Saunders, the ailing and disgraced former chairman of the Guinness brewing group, was released from prison on parole yesterday.

The Home Office had accepted a parole board recommendation that Saunders be freed. He was jailed last August for his part in the illegal share support operation that allowed the brewers to take control of the Distillers drinks group.

Saunders, who once earned more than £250,000 a year, is suffering from pre-senile dementia and is undergoing treatment at a hospital near Ford Open prison in West Sussex where he is serving his sentence.

Saunders, aged 56, had his five-year jail sentence halved last May after the Court of Appeal accepted medical evidence that he was suffering from pre-senile dementia for which there is no cure. Doctors had said that his condition could best be treated outside prison among his own family.

## Methodist Conference in Bolton

## Church turns down chance to relax rules on gambling

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

METHODISTS narrowly rejected yesterday a mandate for change that would have allowed recreational gambling at church fêtes and bazaars. A senior church official said after the vote in Bolton: "The Methodist attitude to gambling is enough to drive you to drink, especially in this decade of evangelism."

The Methodist church has strictly opposed all forms of gambling since 1936, when gambling was not regulated by law. The church's division of social responsibility has, however, called for the rules to be relaxed since the introduction of legislation.

According to a report to the conference, mild entertainment is the main outcome of most gambling, rather than greed, envy and financial ruin. The conference was swayed by evangelical witness to the satanic nature of gambling, but the issue will return next year, when ministers predict the rules will be relaxed.

During the hour-long debate, the Rev David Scott, from Oxford and Leicester, said that he had spent five years ministering to young offenders, many of whom were in prison through crimes committed as a result of gambling addiction. "This gambling started off as 10p recreational gambling," he said. The Rev Graham Smith, from Darlington, said: "Some people have opened a book on this issue. That book is the Bible. Our present rule on gambling is about freedom, not slavery."

The Rev John Kennedy, of the division of social responsibility, had urged the church to adopt a change of policy. "If we affirm this statement, we shake off the partly-deserved image of a group of tightly lipped sayers. If we do not change, we weaken our witness. By our refusal to hear reasonable argument we deny our right to be heard on the gambling issue. It is clear from

this statement that we do not wish to encourage Methodists to gamble. We just wish to remove the heavy hand of theological censure from our attitude to this in general."

The Rev Tony Kinch, from Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury, said: "I find it incredibly difficult to believe that a group of old people in a day care centre playing a game of bingo for a can of baked beans are imperilling their immortal souls."

The Rev Patrick McCusky, from Nottingham and Derby, said it was time for the church to release itself from "albatrosses which prevent our evangelical activity". He said he was on first name terms with down and outs and alcoholics in Nottingham, but many did not go to church because they did not understand the outdated Methodist attitudes on temperance, abstinence and gambling.

Clifford Longley, page 12

## Court delays jail sentence to save business

By PAUL WILKINSON

A JUDGE faced with the prospect of a business collapsing if he simultaneously jailed two company directors who admitted tax-dodging has solved his dilemma by ordering that one of the two should not start his sentence until the other is released from prison.

Dennis Fairbrother and Terence Hughes, who run a £2 million central heating firm in Warrington, Cheshire, yesterday admitted ten tax offences involving £75,000.

Knutsford crown court was told that they had become caught up in a fake invoice scheme to help two friends get cash out of their electrical business.

Hughes, aged 48, from Warrington, was jailed for two months and ordered to pay £35,000. Fairbrother, aged 44, of Knutsford, Cheshire, was imprisoned for six weeks and fined £10,000.

If he is given a maximum 50 per cent remission for good behaviour, Hughes will be released at the end of July. Judge Daniel ordered Fairbrother to return to court on August 12 to begin his sentence.

Passing sentence, the judge told them: "I am taking this unusual course because of the risk of your business folding if you both went to prison at the same time."

Paul McMahon, aged 46, of Macclesfield, Cheshire, and John Wakefield, aged 45, of Northwich, Cheshire, were also jailed after the court was told they had thought up the scheme. McMahon was imprisoned for six months and fined £70,000, and Wakefield was jailed for four months and fined £50,000.

Michael Evans, aged 41, of Belmont, Hereford, Malcolm Thomas, aged 52, and Alan Barratt, aged 45, both of Warrington, also admitted providing the other accused with false invoices. Evans was jailed for 28 days and fined £5,000. Thomas was ordered

to carry out 180 hours community service and Barratt was fined £5,000.

Judge Daniel told them that frauds on the Inland Revenue were frauds on honest people who paid their taxes on time.

"If everyone paid their taxes honestly tax rates could come down," he said.

The seven also face a claim from the Inland Revenue for £300,000 in unpaid taxes.

## Hoax bomb caller gets two years

A man who made two hoax bomb threats to Canary Wharf tower, east London, because he wanted the rest of the day off work was jailed for two years yesterday.

Gary McCormack, aged 23, a labourer, of Battersea, south London, admitted to two charges of supplying false information. Southwark crown court was told that he made two 999 calls on March 17, a month after a bomb explosion at Victoria station, from the third and 45th floors of the tower where he worked. David Hart, aged 31, of Rotherhithe, southeast London, who stayed on the line to police for 45 minutes threatening to blow up Waterloo and Piccadilly stations, was jailed for 18 months by Inner London crown court.

## Wine tax attack

Britons are being deprived of wine at sensible prices by the government's refusal to countenance EC moves to harmonise excise duties. David Jenkins, incoming chairman of the Wine and Spirit Association, said yesterday. Excise duty on table wine was 90p a bottle, compared with an EC target of 9p. Mr Jenkins refuted suggestions that high taxes were needed to limit drinking for health reasons.

## Kinnock stand

The Walton by-election will give the people of Liverpool the chance to show Militant what they think of it. Neil Kinnock the Labour leader, said yesterday. Speaking in the constituency he said that it was necessary for Liverpool's moderate Labour leadership to continue the controversial steps it was taking to balance its books to stop the city "being treated as the joke that Militant made it".

## Crash sentence

A joyrider who admitted killing three people during a high-speed motorway chase with police was sentenced yesterday to four years at a detention centre and banned for seven years. Preston crown court was told that Oliver Knowles, aged 16, of Heysham, Lancashire, who pleaded guilty to manslaughter, crashed into two other cars during the chase after attempting a U-turn.

Byring The Times overseas: Australia \$12.50; Belgium \$12.50; Canada \$12.50; Denmark \$12.50; France \$12.50; Germany \$12.50; Greece \$12.50; Hong Kong \$12.50; India \$12.50; Italy \$12.50; Japan \$12.50; Korea \$12.50; Luxembourg \$12.50; Malaysia \$12.50; Mexico \$12.50; Netherlands \$12.50; New Zealand \$12.50; Norway \$12.50; Portugal \$12.50; Singapore \$12.50; South Africa \$12.50; Spain \$12.50; Sweden \$12.50; Switzerland \$12.50; Taiwan \$12.50; Thailand \$12.50; USA \$12.50; West Germany \$12.50.

## THE SUNDAY TIMES

### The Natural World

As Sir David Attenborough reminds us: "It's easy to say 'how terrible about the Amazonian rainforest', when someone is knocking down an oak wood at the bottom of the nearest valley."



Sir David will next week open The Sunday Times Environment, Wildlife and Conservation Exhibition. Tomorrow, The Sunday Times presents a full-colour 8-page supplement, Natural World, plus a special issue of the Magazine detailing the problems facing planet earth - and the solutions being developed.

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## Plain speaking judge retires and says the rest is silence

By PETER DAVENPORT

AFTER 15 years on the bench, James Pickles, the Yorkshire judge whose penchant for plain speaking and publicity earned him a reputation and notoriety beyond his provincial brief, concluded his final case yesterday with the words: "The rest is silence."

Much as his legal superiors may have wished it to be true, those who knew him best were unconvinced. Within the hour he had disrobed, packed away his battered wig and walked next door, to Bradford county court, to deliver a comprehensive indictment of much of the legal profession, the British judicial system and the prisons.

Judge Pickles, aged 66, officially retires on Monday after 45 years in the law. The next time he picks up his pen will not be to write a judgment but to compose, for an undisclosed fee, a weekly column for *The Sun*, the Gazette of the front pages, as someone quickly christened him yesterday.

He made clear that there was no chance of changing the views, or his manner of



Pickles: a controversial Gaza of the front page

expressing them, that have led him into regular controversy, although he rejected suggestions that he had deliberately cultivated controversy to improve his marketability for his second profession, the media. "I've always been that way. Even at prep school I was a difficult, argumentative and controversial figure," he said.

Then Judge Pickles criticised the "gross delays" in civil and criminal cases, urged the abolition of the right to silence and parole, criticised standards in prisons and championed court staff who, he says, are badly

paid and undervalued. He said many solicitors suffered from complacency, conformity and conservatism - failings, he made clear, which afflicted many others connected with the law. The law on drugs, pornography and prostitution needed drastic revision, and the 3,000 people in prison for such offences should be released.

"In all these three areas, the guiding principle ought to be that an adult should be able to please himself about what drugs he takes, what magazines, books and films he looks at and what women he has sex with, provided that, in each case, he does not harm any unwilling adult," he said.

The judge, a nephew of the entertainer Wilfred Pickles, enjoyed puncturing what he perceived as pomposity of the law and many of those within it; he once called the Lord Chief Justice "an ancient dinosaur" and held a press conference in a public house.

Yesterday, as he looked to a future in "the media", he reflected that perhaps he ought not to have been a judge at all.

## "What, no rain dear this Christmas?"



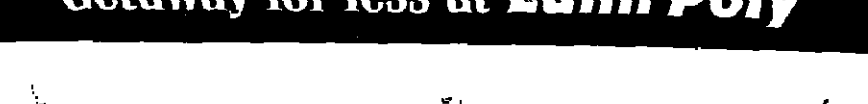
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July 1st 1991



## Heseltine rejects rise in council spending

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

AN ATTEMPT by councils in England and Wales to increase their spending by more than £4 billion next year was rejected by the environment secretary yesterday.

Michael Heseltine told the Association of District Councils' annual conference in Brighton that there was no question of allowing municipal spending to rise by what amounted to 12.5 per cent when inflation was forecast to be around 4 per cent by next April. The request, which has yet to be submitted formally to ministers, would have increased average poll tax bills from £252 this year to almost £300 from April.

Mr Heseltine said that council leaders were "bidding up" their need to spend and it had to stop. He also told

councillors that they should spend less time trying to run local services in detail and more on devising strategy and monitoring standards.

The government would press ahead with its plans to extend the range of council activities required by law to be open to competitive tender. Those would include accounting, poll tax collection, management and computer services. "I despair of the argument that these great changes are nailed in the coffin of local government. I reject so defeatist a view," Mr Heseltine said.

"What we are doing by pushing power out, widening choice and putting power in the hands of individuals is to free local government. To those councillors who measure power by the size of the payroll, that may seem a diminution of power. If power means approving the bin-men's shift pattern, they will have lost it."

Mr Heseltine said local government had an opportunity to replace the obsession with directing battalions of employees with the power to lead and change a community. He angered some delegates when he refused to budge on the government's intention to extend poll tax-capping to councils with budgets of under £15 million. As many as 87 districts would have been capped this year if the £15 million rule had not protected them.

He said: "I do not think there is any public support for the idea that councils should be allowed to increase their expenditure to mop up the £140 a head which the Chancellor made available in the budget to reduce community charge bills this year."

## Hauliers 'will not use tunnel'

As workmen broke through the second tunnel of the Channel link yesterday there was a warning that 90 per cent of haulage companies would ignore the rail link when it opens in 1993.

Davis and Robson, a consultancy firm, said that a survey of 15 leading companies and drivers found that a majority would continue using the ferries for reasons of convenience, comfort and the reliability of service.

## Couple found

Tony Hook and his fiancée Lorraine Kearvell, who vanished after arriving for a holiday on Lanzarote, have been found safe after they saw reports of their disappearance in a newspaper.

## Sentence cut

James Laming, jailed for 14 years in 1989 for drug offences and who made allegations about a plot to nuzzle race horses using a stun gun, had his sentence reduced to 12 years yesterday by the Court of Appeal.

## Remand hearing

Rosemary Aberdour, accused of stealing more than £1.7 million from a hospital charity, was remanded in custody yesterday by Bow Street magistrates.

## Casino victory

A licence to open a new casino in Mayfair, London, has been granted to John Aspinall after a court battle with other casino owners and the Gaming Board.

## MPs pay less

MPs will pay less for their pensions from next April, bringing them into line with most other occupational schemes. Contributions will be cut from 9 per cent to 6 per cent of their salaries.

## 111 not out

Daisy Adams, of Church Gresley, Derbyshire, celebrated her 111th birthday yesterday.

## Neanderthal man 'was our neighbour'

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

NEANDERTHAL man lived side by side in Europe with modern humans for several thousand years, a team of French scientists has concluded.

The two groups probably co-operated, exchanged information, and may have interbred. Eventually the Neanderthals died out, unable to compete with the more sophisticated *Homo sapiens*. Whether our ancestors helped them on their way or were bystanders cannot yet be determined.

The new evidence comes from the dating of flint tools used by Neanderthal men and women who lived in a cave at Saint-Césaire in France. Using thermoluminescence dating, French scientists from four laboratories report in *Nature* that the tools date from 36,300 years ago, give or take 2,700 years.

That places the Neanderthal site close in age to several French sites occupied by modern man, and much younger than some Spanish sites. "The possibility of contact between the west

European Neanderthals and the intrusive modern humans who replaced them cannot therefore be excluded," the group concludes.

Chris Stringer, of the Natural History Museum, a specialist in the origins of man, is less cautious. The new evidence confirms his view that Neanderthal populations in Europe were displaced by modern humans who arrived from Africa.

"For 200,000 years the Neanderthals developed very slowly, then suddenly there was a different group alongside them," he says.

"The new people were more intelligent, they had more sophisticated tools, better huts and they created cave paintings. The very slow and painful cultural advancement of the Neanderthals suddenly accelerated."

How the Neanderthals perished is unknown. Dr Stringer suggests that they were gradually displaced to less favourable environments, where their dwindling numbers may have succumbed to disease.



Mounted charge: members of the Serge Alexandrov Troupe, part of the Moscow State Circus, on Rotten Row, central London, yesterday

## Patten rules out mini-boom before general election

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN will not come galloping out of the recession at breakneck speed, Chris Patten, the Conservative party chairman, told Tory women yesterday.

He predicted a slow and sustainable recovery starting in the second half of the year and continuing into next year

and beyond. At the Conservative women's conference in London, Mr Patten said that he appreciated that the recession was "tough" but that ministers would resist pleas to engineer a little boom before the general election which would risk the long-term strength of the economy.

In a forceful and warmly-received speech that repeat-

edly pointed to a 1992 general election, the party chairman said: "We are going to win the next election by taking the right decisions, by sticking to the right decisions and by starting to see those decisions pay off before polling day."

He added: "What you will not see or get from the government is a lack of will. What you will not see or get

from the party is a lack of nerve. What you will not see or get from John Major or Norman Lamont is a lack of honesty."

By comparison, a Labour government would throw away the achievements of the 1980s in hours, he said.

On Europe Mr Patten said that the prime minister would tell his European Community

colleagues what he wanted and they would listen to his firm and courteous words. "I am convinced that when he comes back from Maastricht [the December EC summit] at the end of the year he will come back with a deal that is good for Britain and good for Europe."

Thatcher years, pages 2-3

## Duke says mortgage proposal is a hot potato

By CHRISTOPHER WARMAN, PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

THE Duke of Edinburgh yesterday approved the recommendation of his enquiry into housing that mortgage interest tax relief should be phased out as part of reforms for a fairer housing system and to meet the challenge of bad housing and homelessness.

He told the Institute of Housing conference in Harrogate, North Yorkshire, that the call for its abolition was a political hot potato that might be stunned by the government and Opposition. He emphasised that the enquiry he chaired had not been influenced by political issues.

Clive Soley, Labour's housing spokesman, said that with repossession at a high level and homeowners in difficulty, the timing was wrong for such a proposal. The housing charity Shelter said that there had never been a more pressing need to redirect resources to those in greatest need.

The Small Landlords Association said that the report, which suggested tax incentives for private landlords, was a breath of fresh air on an issue plagued by political vendettas.

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## Major calls for tougher controls on immigration

FROM ROBIN OAKLEY IN LUXEMBOURG

JOHN Major yesterday urged the European Community to tighten its border controls and increase efforts to counter illegal immigration to avoid a new generation of race riots and a far-right backlash.

He also opened the prospect of continental police being able to pursue criminals across the Channel and into Britain by backing the call by Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor for a European Federal Bureau of Investigation.

In a surprise intervention at the opening session of yesterday's European summit, Mr Major spoke of the danger of excessive immigration, saying that there were so many legal and illegal immigrants from third countries living in the EC that they amounted to its seventh-largest state in population terms.

Urging them both to "stem the flow" of immigration and to deal better with immigrants already within the EC, Mr Major said that Britain alone faced 1,000 applications for asylum every week, many from economic migrants, most of whom were allowed to stay. Numbers had tripled in the past two years.

Excessive immigration gave rise to "pressures and tensions" and if European leaders failed in their control, they risked fuelling the far-right problem which had been held in check in Britain since the mid-1970s.

The prime minister told his fellow heads of state and government: "We must have a really strong and tight perimeter fence. That does not mean fortress Europe. We must remain open to trade and outside influences. But we must not be open to all comers simply because Paris, Rome and London seem more attractive than Bombay or Algiers."

Mr Major said that frontier

controls were important, too, in countering drugs and terrorism. Britain would like new institutional machinery to improve cross-border police co-operation. Government sources said that Mr Major regarded Herr Kohl's suggestion of a European FBI as sensible although Britain wanted greater co-operation between national police forces, rather than the creation of any supranational force.

The prime minister called for all EC nations to give new orders to their police, customs and justice ministries to strengthen the community's border controls. Officials, he said, should report on progress by next June's European Council in Lisbon.

Government sources later confirmed that Mr Major's childhood in Brixton, south London, had made him particularly aware of the dangers of racial tension.

British officials spoke with approval of the arrangements already operating between EC countries which are members of the Schengen agreement. Their deal allows for cross-border pursuit by police in one country chasing criminals who enter another and the pooling of computer intelligence on criminal activities and suspects in member states.

Although there are obvious problems in cross-border pursuits for Britain in relation to Northern Ireland, the development of any kind of FBI operation would lead to the police of one country being able to operate in another.

Ministers believe that Mr Major has to start demonstrating the practical advantages of greater European co-operation and they regard moves on tackling crime, drugs, terrorism and immigration as a means of encouraging support from the Euro-sceptical Tory right.



Light relief in Luxembourg: John Major and Douglas Hurd sharing a joke as they took their places at the start of the summit yesterday

## Treaty fears supported

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN LUXEMBOURG

JOHN Major's doubts about the European Community's draft treaty on political and monetary union were supported by several other governments at the European summit last night. France and Germany said, however, that they support the treaty's federal aims.

The EC leaders discussed the main areas of disagreement at the end of a day disrupted by hasty consultations over the Yugoslav conflict. Most of the prime ministers who spoke discussed plans outlined in the treaty for the closer integration of the community's foreign policies.

Charles Haughey, the Irish prime minister, and Poul Schlüter, his Danish counterpart, said that the commu-

nity's foreign policies should be decided by unanimous, and not majority, vote. Britain has argued in the treaty conferences that unanimous voting is the only way in which the 12 countries can agree a common line. Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the German foreign minister, supported majority voting but he said that governments still needed to decide whether the change should be introduced now or later.

Mr Genscher also defended the inclusion of the word "federal" in the draft, and said that terms should be interpreted to mean a decentralisation of powers. President Mitterrand said that he endorsed the overall thrust of the treaty. Mr Haughey and Mr Schlüter also spoke against

any large increase in the powers of the European parliament. Giulio Andreotti, of Italy, and Wilfried Martens, of Belgium, voiced their governments' traditional support for strengthening the parliament.

Brussels — The EC has reached broad agreement with Japan on a joint declaration extending political and cultural ties, although France is pressing for Tokyo to show more commitment to opening its markets. An EC official said that France's stand was now the only factor that might stop Toshiki Kaifu, the Japanese prime minister, from signing the agreement when he visits The Hague after the meeting of the seven leading industrialised nations in London next month. (Reuters)

## Walesa is outvoted on electoral law

FROM PATRICIA KOZA IN WARSAW

THE Sejm (lower house) overrode President Walesa's second veto of an electoral law yesterday, forcing the president to sign the legislation.

The vote was well over the two-thirds majority needed to become law and ended a parliamentary conflict in which Mr Walesa has twice unsuccessfully tried to force the lower house to accept four amendments that would strengthen presidential control over the electoral process.

A spokesman for Mr Walesa said that the president was considering his response to the action, a key political defeat for the one-time leader of Solidarity whose popularity has declined by 14 points

according to the latest opinion poll. "The president is analysing the developments. He will make up his mind next week," Andrzej Drzycimski said.

Under the constitution, the president has an obligation to sign a bill sustained by a two-thirds vote of the Sejm with half its deputies in attendance. "If he does not sign it, it will be a violation of the constitution," a Sejm spokeswoman said. "On the other hand, we don't know what he's going to do." Mr Walesa has promised to hold elections by October, but many experts believe that there may not be enough time to set up the rules for what will be the country's first free parliamentary elections.

## Kiev puts its stamp on rouble

Kiev — The Ukraine is to introduce a "stamped" rouble this summer as a move towards a separate currency that will take its 52 million citizens out of the economic union based on the Soviet rouble (Robert Seely writes).

The decision, announced yesterday by the republic's prime minister, Viacheslav Fokin, is part of a package to stabilise the Ukraine's economy, the second biggest in the Soviet Union. The measures will mean a further split of the republic from Kremlin management. Conversion to a full currency is still at least a year away. A Ukrainian delegation is reportedly due to visit Switzerland next week for negotiations on the matter.

## Assets seized

Berlin — The German government's Treuhand privatisation agency has seized all bank accounts of the Party of Democratic Socialism in an investigation into multi-billion dollar assets inherited from the party's East German socialist forerunner. Party officials called the move a "despotic act". (Reuters)

## Art crime wave

Prague — Police who recovered four stolen Picasso paintings worth £17.5 million believe Western art dealers are ordering the theft of valuable antiques from Eastern Europe. Thieves have ransacked museums, churches, castles and cultural monuments throughout the former Socialist bloc since the iron curtain was lifted.

## US pulls out

Athens — The Stars and Stripes came down for the last time at Hellenikon Air Force base, ending the 44-year American presence near the Greek capital. The closure is part of worldwide defence cuts, announced by the Defence Department last year, and the second in Greece in the past 12 months. (AP)

## Bubble bursts

Paris — Germany has taken over from Britain as the world's top consumer of champagne, the Champagne Association said. Producers expect 1991 world sales to be 20 per cent down on last year. (Reuters)



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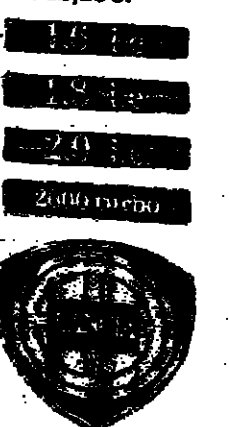
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# Slovenes prepare guerrilla war to cripple the federal Goliath



Bomb damage: a fighter plane and burnt-out cars at Ljubljana airport, hit by Yugoslav forces yesterday

IN THE verdant ravines of Slovenia, tens of thousands of freshly trained young soldiers are ready to launch a guerrilla war that will shatter the modern state of Yugoslavia.

Few expected the Slovenes, the most mild-mannered of the Yugoslav peoples, to come up with a strong resistance movement. Yet it has emerged as a David with a sling pitted against the unsure Goliath of the federal army. Slovene radio describes the Yugoslav units as "an army of occupation", and the nation of two million people has united for a long struggle in the cities and sweeping valleys. In Trzin, scene of a gunfight on Thursday night, a scholarly-looking man on a bicycle pointed at the crumpled carcass of a van squashed by a tank. "Hundreds of thousands may die in this war, but we will win in weeks

With calm confidence, the Slovenes are ready for a lengthy struggle and there is even talk of a new Vietnam, Roger Boyes reports from Ljubljana

or maybe months. This is not Desert Storm, but it could be a kind of Vietnam." This was Janez Topolsek, aged 49, a lawyer in bicycling shorts, not the firebrand resistance soldier in immaculate grey-green uniform (supplier: Germany) and smart black boots (supplier: Britain) who frisked us so thoroughly at a roadblock.

The skirmish in Trzin was typical of the gun battles that have been raging through Slovenia. When tanks started to barrel down the road to Ljubljana airport, the Slovene self-defence force decided to erect a barrier of vehicles. The

Yugoslavs swept through this obstacle with ease, but the Slovene resistance was ready and shot dead three Yugoslav soldiers. Now there is a new barrier: three huge articulated lorries with mines glued to their undercarriage.

The Slovenes say they have three months of food and fuel in reserve. If the ceasefire breaks down, the Slovenes could fight well, much as they fought against the Germans in the second world war. The Slovene defence concept has been carefully worked out by Janez Jansa, a former punk-

rock journalist turned Slovene defence minister (he has had his hair cut and resembles a slimmer Norman Schwarzkopf), and Princeton-educated Dr Anton Bebler. Slovene terrain is unsuitable for tank warfare. Moreover, the Yugoslav defence structure has been based on co-operation between the federal army and the local territorial defence.

No serious thought was ever given to the prospect of the territorial defence force rebelling against the federal army. The result is that the army is having big problems bringing its troops into Slovenia. Yesterday chain-smoking Slovene soldiers were camped lazily around the railway junction at Zidani Most — where the Yugoslav railway system changes from broad to narrow gauge. A simple switch of

levers would be enough to gum up any supply trains.

All the main highways to Ljubljana are now blocked by fractured trucks and gun-toting militia. Israeli-made gas masks have been stocked, and air raid shelters which had been used by farmers to store grain have been cleared out. Hospital wards have been cleared for the wounded and Slovenes have been told not to buy large quantities of medicine or bandages.

All this smacks of a coherent plan. But the most telling part of the Slovene opposition are the isolated, spontaneous confrontations, such as that in Dragograd near the Slovene-Hungarian border. When the Yugoslav units tried to take over this border crossing, hundreds of Slovenes surrounded the tanks and called on the soldiers to surrender.

The commander refused and threatened to arrest civilians if any Yugoslav soldiers were harmed. The local council promptly decided that the captain, a Serb, should be treated as a war criminal when the war is over.

Neighbouring Croatia has tried to give some support to the Slovene resistance. It has called on all Croats in Yugoslav army units based in Slovenia to desert. Slovenes based in Yugoslav regiments in Croatia are also being encouraged to desert and sign up with the resistance movement. Some Croatian soldiers encountered at a Slovene border crossing yesterday said they regarded themselves as Yugoslavs and would obey orders. Yet the army is worried and has been taking measures to stave off mass desertions.

## Bonanza for the arms sellers as militants strengthen arsenals

By DESSA TREVISAN IN BELGRADE AND DAVID WATTS IN LONDON

VOJISLAV Seselj, the Serbian extremist leader, posed for photographers yesterday, a Kalashnikov assault rifle slung across his shoulder patch, which features the Croats' skull symbol, offering a chilling view of Yugoslavia's headlong rush to arm itself.

"We do not need to waste bullets on the Croats, all we need is some rusty spoons to dig their eyes out," he said. Given that Mr Seselj enjoys the support of the ruling Serbian communists, his views carry a certain frightening weight.

In countryside camps all around Belgrade, the militants are training their militias. With everything from 1950s-vintage rifles to ultra-modern American Stinger anti-aircraft

missiles, which may already have destroyed military helicopters, every ethnic group in Yugoslavia feels the need to defend itself.

There are rumours of the Croats being in the market for 140 jet fighters and 170 tanks. With large numbers of the former Warsaw Pact's weapons now redundant and state arms factories fighting for their next contract, there are plenty of sellers.

The jets and tanks should present no problem for a determined buyer: throughout what was the Eastern bloc, air forces are retiring older MiG 15s, 17s and 23s, and one Yugoslav private citizen already has his own tank.

The federal government tried to control the possession

of weapons when it offered an amnesty on May 9 for all territorial armies to surrender their arms. The Slovenes, however, managed to retain about 40 per cent of their equipment, according to John Zamecica, a research fellow at the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London. Despite a one-month period of grace for the amnesty, very few weapons have been surrendered.

"Instead of handing things over, imports were speeded up," said one observer. "With Eastern Europe resolving its problems, the market for weapons is wide open and there is nothing that anyone can do about it. Weapons are coming in by road, sea and even by air."

The pace was set by the Croats, who bought 80,000 Kalashnikov assault rifles from the Hungarians. Next came a substantial purchase of rifles from Singapore. Other sources of weapons are believed to include both Korea. North Korea may be the source of some Sam 7 anti-aircraft missiles. South Korea produces the American M16 assault rifle under licence. Even weapons from Latin America have been seen.

Weaponry produced in Yugoslavia itself may also end up in the wrong hands: in Bosnia, where three ethnic groups live together, 80 rifles and 20,000 rounds of ammunition were seized recently.

So far there is no evidence that the Slovenes have access to armour or artillery for the 57,000-strong self-defence force and 8,000 police. But Admiral Stane Brovet, deputy minister of defence, said yesterday that 40,000 Slovene troops were being engaged by 1,990 Yugoslav regular troops and 400 federal police.

In Croatia, 30,000 conscripts who recently completed their service in the Yugoslav national army were immediately transferred to the Croatian militia. In Krajina the same process has been repeated. There, the commander of the local police, Milan Martić, boasted recently that he had 30,000 volunteers ready immediately but that figure could easily reach 200,000.

Diary, page 12  
Leading article, page 13



Breaking point: a Yugoslav army tank crashing through a barricade near Ljubljana airport in Slovenia. The federal army was sent in to seize the international checkpoints with Italy, Hungary and Austria after the republics of Slovenia and Croatia declared their independence on Tuesday

## Security body gets first call to action

By DAVID WATTS, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

LITTLE more than a week after it was agreed, the Conference on Security and Co-operation crisis-management mechanism will get its first test. The organization's first crisis-management session may be held tomorrow to discuss Yugoslavia.

Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, said in a radio interview that the necessary 13 members of the 35-nation CSCE had agreed to call the session. "I have support not only from the European Community states but also from the United States, Norway and Austria. More will certainly come during the day today," he said.

"At the foreign ministry, we are preparing the meeting of senior officials of the 35 CSCE states in Prague, the place where the next foreign ministers' council meeting will be held," he said. Herr Genscher, chairman of the foreign ministers' council overseeing CSCE work, said that the confrontation in Slovenia had violated CSCE rules on peaceful settlement of disputes and created an unacceptable situation.

Under the new rules, a quorum of 13 CSCE states is needed to launch a search for peaceful resolution of a conflict threatening stability in post-Cold War Europe. They can consult and offer friendly mediation but have no power to take on an independent role

in a member country's domestic conflicts.

There is no question of the new mechanism's validity in investigating conflicts between states, but what is not clear is whether the meeting will be able to deal with internal conflicts in the state under investigation. Strictly

speaking that is only provided for in the preamble to the new agreement and is not enshrined in the body of the text.

Austria and Italy, both neighbours of Yugoslavia, have also called into play the Conflict Prevention Centre set up in Vienna under an agreement at a CSCE summit in

Paris last November.

This can organise a meeting of all members if one of them complains of unusual military activity near by. Both Austria and Italy maintain that Yugoslav federal attempts to crush the Slovene and Croatian independence bids amount to this.

## Pope urges dialogue

Rome — The Pope has called for an end to violence in Yugoslavia and urged dialogue that would respect the "legitimate aspirations" of the people of Slovenia and Croatia (Reuters reports). He departed from his prepared text to make the comment during a Vatican ceremony at which he installed 23 cardinals.

## Austrians protest at overflight

From BRENDA FOWLER IN SPIELFELD, AUSTRIA

AUSTRIA has protested sharply to Yugoslavia over the violation of its airspace yesterday after at least four Yugoslav army jets crossed into its territory before bombing Slovene border areas.

The defence minister, Werner Fasslabend, said Austria would send up "demonstration flights" and move several thousand more border guards to patrol the border between Slovenia and the southern Austrian province of Styria. "We are not taking this as a provocation, but when Austria's airspace is violated we are obliged by our neutral status to respond with appropriate measures," Herr Fasslabend said. "We are ready to confront all such future flights over our borders."

The governor of Styria province, Josef Krainer, said that Yugoslav jets had flown at least 20 miles into Austrian airspace.

● Budapest: Hungary expressed deep concern about the conflict in Slovenia yesterday, amid reports of Yugoslav reconnaissance flights, and confirmed that it was strengthening security at border posts along its frontier.

## Britons tell of panic

By JOHN YOUNG

BRITISH holidaymakers arriving home from Yugoslavia said yesterday that panic had spread among tourists afraid of being caught up in the violence of civil war.

Relieved to be home, the holidaymakers reported increased numbers of military jet aircraft on sorties over Yugoslavia, and the sound of machinegun fire as local militiamen celebrated the declarations of independence by Slovenia and Croatia. Patrols of government troops had been sent to guard hotels.

Those arriving at Gatwick airport from Dubrovnik were among more than 15,000 Britons being flown home by tour operators in an emergency operation. Graham Banks, from Guernsey, criticised tour officials for failing to provide up to date information. "A lot of people were panicking about their safety," he said. "The reps didn't seem to know what was going on, but neither did the locals."

Brian Figgitt, a print worker, from Forest Hill, Sussex, said he had heard machine gun fire from his motel near Dubrovnik as the police celebrated.

## Regional tensions that led to strife

By OUR DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

IN SPITE of 70 years as a single state, Yugoslavia's historical, ethnic and religious differences have never been overcome. Serbs, Croats and Slovenes united in 1918, determined to throw off centuries of foreign domination.

After being dismembered by the Germans in 1941, the regions of Macedonia, Montenegro and Bosnia-Herzegovina joined Serbia, Slovenia and Croatia to form a communist-style federation of six "people's republics".

The deep religious, ethnic and linguistic differences were masked under Marshal Tito, Yugoslavia's communist founder. Tito, a Croat, neutralised traditional Serbian dominance and kept dissent at bay. The differences among Serbia, Croatia and Slovenia surfaced quickly, however, after his death in 1980.

Most Croats are Roman Catholics; most Serbs are Orthodox. The Croats were dominated for hundreds of years by Central European



nations, while the Serbs were subject to Ottoman Turkish control until the 19th century. Traditional rivalries exploded into hatred after Tito's death. Slovene towns and villages bear a striking resemblance to Austria, which ruled the republic's two million people for centuries, and the mainly Catholic population considers itself closer in attitude to Vienna than Belgrade.

Western-looking republic consider that their independence is consistent with the natural evolution of events since Tito's death. Slovene towns and villages bear a striking resemblance to Austria, which ruled the republic's two million people for centuries, and the mainly Catholic population considers itself closer in attitude to Vienna than Belgrade.

**Croatia**  
Population: 4.68m. Second largest republic and home to 600,000 Serbs. United with Hungary in 1091, and became independent state during the second world war.

**Serbia**  
Population: 9.31m. Prosperous state destroyed by the Turks at the Battle of Kosovo in 1389. It became independent in 1878.

**Bosnia-Herzegovina**  
Population: 4.44m. Conquered by Turks in 1463 and part of Austro-Hungarian empire from 1878. Mostly Muslim population. Serbs make up the second largest group and there are more than half a million Croats.

**Montenegro**  
Population: 584,310. Separate entity on the break-up of the Serbian empire in 1355.

**Slovenia**  
Population: 1.89m. Gained independence from the Austro-Hungarian empire in 1918.

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THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



# Iraqis provoke US with warning shots at arms inspectors

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

IRAQ defied the United Nations yesterday and risked provoking American military intervention by firing warning shots at UN inspectors searching for equipment suspected of making nuclear weapons.

The security council, which on Thursday told Iraq to co-operate, was informed, and diplomats said that they expected it to send a high-level UN mission to Baghdad to guarantee access. The team is likely to comprise Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the UN special commission charged with destroying Iraq's unconventional weapons, Hans Blix, the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, and Yasushi Akashi, the senior UN disarmament official.

There was an atmosphere of impending trouble as it became clear that Iraq had challenged a key United Nations condition for an end to the Gulf war — the supervised elimination of its nascent

nuclear-weapons capability. American diplomats said that the ceasefire resolution declares an end to hostilities only when Iraq has complied with its conditions, and that the United States might be legally justified in intervening militarily to guarantee that compliance. "We can play this by the Marquess of Queensberry rules or we can play it by the Rafferty rules," said one of the diplomats. "We can play by both."

Mr Ekeus described what happened in a letter to Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the UN secretary-general. The UN team mounted a spot check, as it is entitled to do under an agreement with Baghdad, on a military transportation facility east of Fallujah.

The team leader asked that there should be no movement on the site until the inspection took place. But while waiting to enter, the team saw vehicles being loaded with the objects

they wanted to inspect. Drivers then began moving them off the site. Some officials were sent to the southern exit of the facility to photograph the vehicles as they left. As they did so, Iraqi soldiers fired into the air and tried to seize the cameras. The camp commander told the team that, while he would have liked to allow them in, he had no instructions to do so.

Diplomats said that the inspectors were searching for suspected uranium enriching equipment moved before another spot check earlier this week. They had seen the vehicles preparing to leave when they had climbed a water tower.

The United States has accused Iraq of hiding a secret nuclear weapons programme, and has refused to rule out further military intervention. On Wednesday, American officials made a confidential presentation to security council ambassadors in which they accused Iraq of trying to hide equipment for electro-magnetic isotope separation, a primitive method of enriching uranium for nuclear weapons. An Iraqi scientist, who defected to the United States, has alleged that Iraq has about 80lb of enriched uranium made in this way, enough to make two atomic bombs.

The Americans showed the security council reconnaissance photographs of cranes and lorries moving heavy objects from the Abu Gharaib army barracks outside Baghdad to prevent their discovery by the team. The team was denied access to the site three times, and when it did finally mount an inspection on Wednesday they found that the equipment they sought had been removed.

The security council responded on Thursday by issuing a private warning to Dr Abdul al-Ansari, the Iraqi ambassador, to comply with the ceasefire resolution.

● Baghdad: Iraq said yesterday that intense activity seen at a suspected nuclear site was probably linked to construction work. Nizar Hamdoun, a foreign ministry under-secretary, also criticised the inspection team. He said that inspectors had acted unfairly and had not respected Eid, a Muslim holiday. Mr Hamdoun repeated Iraqi denials that the site, about 20 miles from Baghdad, was used for nuclear or chemical purposes. "In this site there is nothing that has anything to do with any nuclear or chemical activity,"

Mr Hamdoun said that the team had to wait for permission to visit the site because of the four-day holiday marking the end of the annual pilgrimage to Mecca. He said the team had been asked to wait until after the holiday ended on Tuesday.

He said Abu Gharaib was always bustling with civilian and military activity. A construction company, which stored heavy materials there, was working against a self-imposed deadline to complete repairs to a bridge damaged in the Gulf war. (Reuters)



Full steam ahead: an official from the Institute of Vulcanology in the Philippines racing past a steam vent on Mount Pinatubo yesterday. Scientists believe the volcano, which has killed at least 338 people since it erupted earlier this month, may erupt again.

## Kuwait to send Saddam's tools of torture on tour

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN KUWAIT CITY

KUWAITI volunteers have assembled the biggest collection of torture instruments seen since the Nazi era and plan to display it worldwide, complete with documentation and film, as a permanent reminder of the horrors of the Iraqi occupation.

The organisers said yesterday that the collection would be taken first to Arab countries and then to Europe, beginning soon after the anniversary of the invasion on August 2. Former members of the resistance are being recruited to act as guards because of fear of reprisals by pro-Iraqi extremist groups.

Occupying a large classroom in a girls' school, now the headquarters of the newly formed Kuwaiti Association to Defend Victims of War, the collection is not for the squeamish. Many of the thousands of returned exiles flocking to

see it leave in tears. The items were all found in torture chambers abandoned when the Iraqi army fled in February. They total more than 150 and range from an electrified metal chair made out of office furniture to a domestic meat tenderiser used to smash the fingers of Kuwaiti victims.

Despite their lack of sophistication, the elaborateness of some of the objects makes one wonder about the minds which devised them. The items include a regulation army helmet wired to a three-pin plug and used after water had been dripped on to the victims' shaven heads and a "chemical alarm bell" which rang when blindfolded victims had been injected with mysterious substances they were told would poison them.

Every one of the instruments has had its use verified before being dis-

played on the tables with neat white linen cloths. There is also a formaldehyde jar containing bits of tendon, flesh and fingernail taken from one room used by the Iraqi interrogators.

The exhibit resembles a cross between a second-hand electronic shop and a butcher's. Many of the implements are still bloodstained. The disturbingly realistic impression is increased by the made-up fashion dummies, including one with severed breasts.

Among those who have seen the exhibits are two members of the British Royal Army Medical Corps. Major A.C. Thompson wrote in the visitors' book: "As an Englishman, I have visited several medieval torture chambers in historic castles. Although they horrified me, because they are many centuries old they could remain in my mind as quaint and from a bygone age. To see modern technology and primitive instruments used in torture and senseless infliction of pain leaves me outraged and speechless. Thank God we had the ability to defeat this evil."

Major J.M. Field wrote: "It has been harrowing to see these illustrations of man's inhumanity to man." The exhibition is the more shocking because some of the electronic instruments can still be worked from plugs in the wall of the classroom. A Kuwaiti air force colonel, Ali al-Fodari, is on hand to demonstrate in detail how each of the instruments was used.

A man who avoided capture by switching identity nine times during the seven-month occupation, the former fighter pilot is in charge of the scheme to take the exhibition on tour. "The purpose will be to show the world what the Iraqis did to innocent people and to make sure that no one can forget," Colonel Fodari explained.

## Soviet migrants reject their Jewish identity

FROM PAUL ADAMS IN JERUSALEM

ALMOST a third of the Jews arriving in Israel from the Soviet Union do not define themselves as Jewish.

The statistic, contained in one of two polls, is likely to fuel an argument over whether stricter criteria should be used to determine if immigrants are Jewish. On Thursday Ovadia Yosef, the former Sephardi chief rabbi, issued a ruling that Soviet immigrants had to prove four generations of Jewish lineage. Amnon Rubenstein, the chairman of the left-wing Shinui party, replied that if the Nuremberg laws of Nazi Germany had been as strict, many more Jews would have escaped the Holocaust.

The poll, published in *Yerushalayim*, a Jerusalem weekly, found that almost 40 per cent of Soviet immigrants favoured the separation of state and religion, and more than 30 per cent opposed religious coercion. About 300,000 Soviet Jews have arrived since the beginning of last year and there is talk of sending up an immigrant party, which 70 per cent of the respondents said they would vote for.

However, another survey for the *Yediot Aharonot* daily, suggested that the longer Soviet immigrants remain in Israel, the more right-wing they become. Only one-third said, however, that they were sure to stay in Israel.

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## Cambodia talks set for Peking

FROM REUTERS IN BANGKOK

RIVAL Cambodian leaders have agreed to meet in Peking next month to try to iron out differences over a United Nations peace plan.

It will be the first time the rival factions have met in China, which has been the main supporter of the Cambodian guerrillas in their 12-year war against the Vietnamese-installed government in Phnom Penh. The meeting will prepare for a formal session of Cambodia's Supreme National Council in Bangkok in late August, a member of the faction loyal to Prince Norodom Sihanouk said.

Among those attending will be Hun Sen, prime minister of the Phnom Penh government. The meeting was arranged to sustain momentum after the guerrillas and the government narrowed their difference this week during talks at the Thai resort of Pattaya.

The areas of agreement included a ceasefire and a moratorium on arms shipments to Cambodia. The choice of Peking as the venue reflects the cordial atmosphere that developed in Pattaya. The meeting will be attended by representatives of the United Nations, France and Indonesia. France and Indonesia jointly chair the Paris International Conference on Cambodia.

Important differences have still to be resolved over the UN peace plan, which calls for foreign administrators virtually to run Cambodia during a disarmament period to be followed by elections. While the guerrillas have accepted the plan in full, Phnom Penh wants amendments to stop the Khmer Rouge returning to power. More than one million Cambodians were killed during its rule from 1975 to 1979.

## Holy war threat in Algeria

Algeria — Shooting continued in the streets here as Muslim fundamentalists barricaded streets against the Algerian army.

Abassi Madani, leader of the Islamic Salvation Front, told thousands of Friday prayer worshippers: "If the army does not withdraw, we will be obliged to call a jihad (holy war)."

There was no word of casualties from the mid-morning gunfire or from shooting in the night, some of the heaviest since unrest began last month. Troops and tanks tried to discourage crowds heading for the central mosques. (Reuters)

## Escobar charged

Bogotá — Pablo Escobar, the Medellín drug baron who gave himself up to the government on June 19 and is being held at a prison built to his specifications 300 miles from the capital, has been charged on 14 counts, including several of murder, kidnapping and terrorism. (AFP)

## Air emergency

Lagos — At least three people were reported killed and up to 22 injured when BAC-111 airliner operated by a private Nigerian company, made an emergency landing near the northern city of Sokoto. It was reported to have landed near the airport after circling for an hour waiting for runway lights to be switched on. (Reuters)

## Cats flap

Sydney — An Australian cat breeder, aged 70, who had 130 cats, 50 birds, two dogs and two sheep in his three-bedroom home, has been jailed for four months by a court here for failing to provide veterinary treatment for them. The court also banned him from owning animals again. (Reuters)

## Air plan to knock out atom plants

FROM PETER STOTHARD, US EDITOR, IN WASHINGTON

THE Pentagon has prepared fresh plans to destroy President Saddam Hussein's nuclear research and production plants from the air.

The proposals were discussed by President Bush and his top advisers at a White meeting, hastily convened yesterday following the shooting incident at an Iraqi facility to which UN inspectors were denied entry.

Defence Secretary, Richard Cheney, joined Mr Bush and his Secretary of State, James Baker, to consider what was

ment to reporters as he left yesterday's meeting for a weekend at Camp David.

The United States has kept a squadron of Stealth fighter-bombers at Musayf in western Saudi Arabia. These could be used to drop laser-guided bombs on those nuclear installations which survived the Gulf war, including the mountain factory near Mosul, whose operations were revealed recently by an Iraqi defector.

Alternatively, Tomahawk cruise missiles could be fired from ships near by. Both methods are part of contingency proposals available to counter what James Baker, the Secretary of State, has described as "extraordinarily serious" efforts to deceive the international community.

Washington is determined to ensure that Iraq's progress towards producing nuclear weapons, a key determinant of the decision to launch Operation Desert Storm, should be halted. The options for resuming the use of force were discussed on Thursday at the powerful deputies committee, which co-ordinates crisis-management between the Pentagon, the CIA and the National Security Council.

An official said that other means had also been discussed to influence Iraq to stay within UN ceasefire conditions and give up programmes which could produce weapons of mass destruction. The results of the meeting were now available for President Bush and his senior aides to consider, he said.

Asked in public about US military action, Pete Williams, the Pentagon spokesman, said that "if we were considering such options, we wouldn't say". Mr Baker, when asked the same question, contented himself with saying: "Stay tuned."



Baker: "Stay tuned" on military action

described as "a range of measures" to deal with Iraq's continuing refusal to allow full inspection of its nuclear programme. Possible military action was first aired by senior White House, defence department and intelligence officials on Thursday after the earlier refusal by Iraq allow International Atomic Energy inspectors into secret facilities outside Baghdad.

It was not known how quickly America might respond, and whether bombing would be preferred to increased diplomatic pressure. President Bush made no com-

## Doubts remain as Pretoria renounces nuclear weapons

By DAVID WAITS, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

EXPERTS in nuclear non-proliferation are cautious about South Africa's renunciation of nuclear weapons and say that it will be difficult to verify compliance.

South Africa has agreed to allow inspection of its facilities but, as the experience with Iraq has shown, it is a

simple matter to retain sufficient enriched uranium for a weapons programme.

It is the first time that a country with a nuclear weapons programme has renounced it and agreed to sign the nuclear non-proliferation treaty. Brazil and Argentina have agreed to advise each

other of the scale of their nuclear programmes, but there is no commitment to sign the treaty.

Paul Leventhal, the president of the Nuclear Control Institute in Washington, has asked the United States, Britain, France and the Soviet Union to reveal their information on the South African nuclear programme to get an accurate assessment of its enriched uranium fuel, so that the government may be challenged if there is a discrepancy in the figures.

Given any time lag before inspection, it would be possible for the South African authorities to blend any highly enriched uranium with less potent material, making checking difficult. It can also be a problem ascertaining the scale of a programme when its managers do not always reveal the scale of their activities, even to their governments. Some highly enriched uranium might be retained for later use. South African denials of co-operation with the Israelis and of a testing programme have left the institute unimpressed.

It is believed that Pretoria has had a nuclear weapons programme since the mid-1970s. In 1977 satellite surveillance detected the preparation of a nuclear test site in the Kalahari desert.

## Flood defences mar Old Master landscape

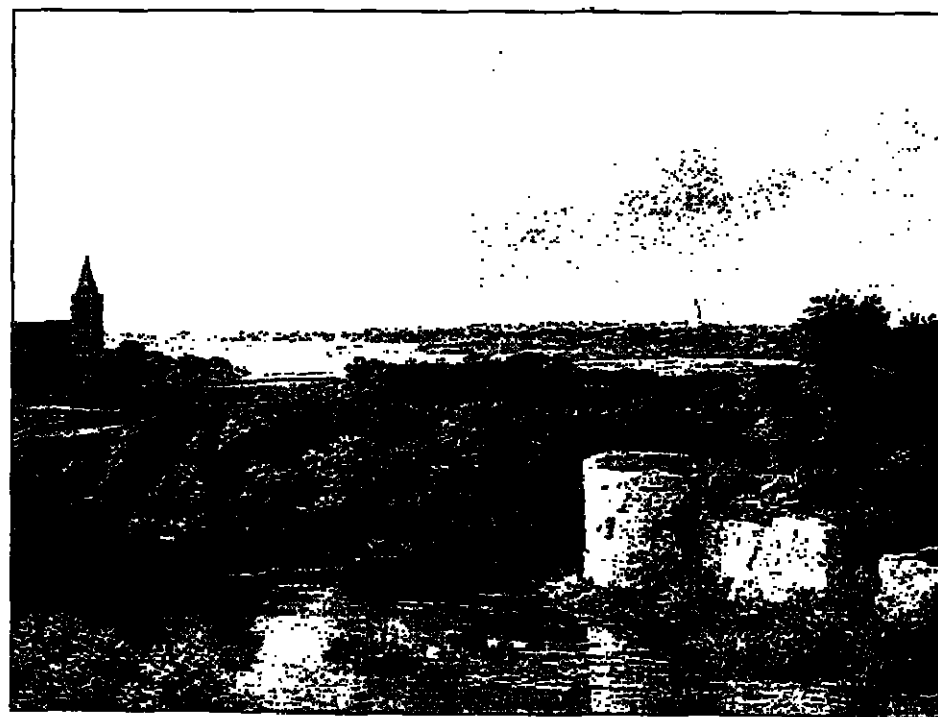
FROM MARK FULLER IN AMSTERDAM

THE polder landscape of The Netherlands, immortalised in the works of the Dutch Old Masters, is under threat from a government scheme to strengthen the river-flood defences.

The idyllic river scenes depicted in the works of 17th-century artists such as Rembrandt and Jakob van Ruysdael are still largely intact. But they are not expected to remain so for much longer as the government presses on with its plan to widen and heighten more than 500 miles of dikes.

The £700 million scheme follows the entire course of the main rivers of The Netherlands from their estuaries in the west to the German border. It was unveiled in 1953 after devastation caused by floods which killed 1,835 people. The government's main objective, which has enjoyed public support, has been to strengthen sea defences. In 1985 work turned to the rivers, but the full extent of the damage involved has only just become known, outraging local residents and the country's artists.

"If the government gets its way, most of the thatched cottages and half-timbered houses dotted along the dikes will disappear, as will the water meadows, copses and



Threatened beauty: Dutch artists are angry that the kind of scenery in this detail from Jakob van Ruysdael's *View towards Haarlem* could soon vanish forever

small dairy holdings," said Willem den Ouden, a landscape artist who is leading protests against the plan.

Mr den Ouden, who has sketched the area around his home in Varik on the Rhine for the past 30 years, says there is an incomparable combination of man-made and natural environments along the river which has attracted artists for centuries.

Unlike the existing river defences, the new dikes will not follow its meandering course of but maintain as straight a line as possible. More than twice the width and five foot higher than the present structure, they obscure beautiful scenery, cutting through water-meadows and sometimes whole villages. The new dikes are made of sand with one side

clad in concrete, preventing the growth of trees and other flora typical of the polder landscape. To accommodate the new defences, thousands of homes have been demolished and the ministry of public works admits that thousands more must go.

A spokesman for the government, Pieter Brolsma, said that it was trying to preserve as much as possible

of the original scenery and planned to create new nature areas nearby. But with more than two-thirds of the Dutch population living below sea-level, and the water level predicted to rise alarmingly as a result of global warming, parliament has decided that "safety must become before natural beauty", he said.

The ministry estimates that the weakest sections of the river dikes risk floods once every 50 to 100 years. Once the plan is complete in 2008, the flood risk will be reduced to once in 1,250 years. Mr Brolsma said: "Many more people now live in the vulnerable low lands adjoining the dikes, and there are industrial centres to protect. The provinces involved asked the government for extra defences."

Critics dispute the government's analysis, saying it is still reacting to the traumatic floods of 1953. Professor Jan Bervaeke claims that every flood since 1770 has been caused by ice blocking the river, not high water-levels.

Hendrik van Santen, aged 80, whose cottage on the bank of the Rhine is to be demolished to make way for the new defences, is bewildered by the plan: "I've lived here all my life and the worst floods in 1926 only came up to here," he said, pointing to his thigh. His family had stayed with relatives till their home dried out.

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WORLDWIDE

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## Clifford Longley

The honourable crusade is over. Methodists are abandoning their long-held obsession and gingerly embracing the modest tipple

Lord Soper confessed in an interview in *The Times* not long ago that in his 89 years he had "lapsed in many ways", even at one point becoming an atheist. But never, he said, did he sink so low as to drink or gamble. There spoke the true voice of the nonconformist conscience from one of its greatest living exemplars. Drinking and gambling, to those deeply dyed in this puritan ethos, are uniquely shocking sins. Yet Methodism, the epitome of Nonconformity in this respect and others, is again flirting with Demon Drink and the very devil himself, gambling. A little bit of social alcohol to attract the young to youth clubs, and a mild flutter on a raffle - proceeds to charity - are being urged on the church in order to lift the Methodist appeal. Much further down this road, can Methodism still be Methodist?

The nonconformist conscience was in fact never an "ism", nor was it exclusively concerned with the twin evils of drinking and gambling. The term was first heard in 1890 in *The Times* as nonconformist liberals expressed their anger at Charles Parnell, hitherto their hero, when his scandalous liaison became public. It was the ethos of a class whose main concern was not attacking the innocent pleasures of others but being good and doing good. And basic to it was the protestant evangelical creed that the reward of a saved Christian was success in this life, to be followed by success in the next.

Temperance, at its origins in the 19th century, was highly political. Gladstone reckoned he lost the 1874 election because his 1872 Licensing Act, restricting the hours at which drink could be sold, went too far. Then as now the Tories were the "brewers' party", and brewers were regarded by their enemies as milking fat profits from the misery of the poor. But temperance was not initially a left-wing cause. It went with the virtues of thrift, chastity, respectability and above all industry. Those who promoted it, often the leading industrialists of their day, also believed in free market economics. They opposed government intervention in economic matters on strict - and often religious - principle.

In answer to the socialists, the 19th-century temperance movement claimed the condition of the poor was not to be blamed on capitalism as such, but on the moral corruption of the poor by the brewers and sellers of drink. Immunise the proletariat against them by great moral crusades like the Band of Hope, and capitalism would at last start to deliver its promise of prosperity for all. Alcohol was the economic liberals' great alibi. And the failure of this doctrine swung the Liberals gradually towards belief in government intervention in the free market, for the common good. The 1872 Act was a watershed in the conversion of the Liberals from economic liberalism.

Henceforth drink would not only be resisted by the encouragement of virtue: law would be the ally of temperance too. But as a result, the badge of evil was subtly transferred from the brewers to the products they made, strong drink itself. But even at its most intense it never lost its roots in a deep social conscience. The poor were "chapel", as were most of their industrial benefactors like George Cadbury of Birmingham and Joseph Rowntree of York. These great Victorian entrepreneurs opposed drink, but they also sponsored projects for the community, in housing, education and welfare. And this social conscience was equally Methodism's trademark, then as now. It was the religion of the industrious working class striving towards prosperity and respectability.

At first a seamless political, moral and religious ideology. Nonconformity began to find its various strands separated by the revolution in the national political culture caused by the first world war and the rise of Labour. The separation marked the beginning of the decay of the nonconformist conscience into incoherence. Methodism in particular began to divorce temperance from its original political context as a way of defending the poor from the rich, and made it a personal and private choice, good for its own sake. That change, from the political to the moral and from the public to the private, went hand in hand with Nonconformity's political swing from right to left.

By and large Methodism began to embrace Christian socialism, with its entirely different explanation of why the poor were poor. To socialists, the "alcohol alibi" for the failure of economic liberalism was no longer relevant. Indeed, alcohol in moderation was quite compatible with the Methodists' new-found social doctrine, as a way of making the lives of the "victims" of capitalism more comfortable. But an ethos deliberately taken on for social and political reasons was not so easily shrugged off. No longer did temperance have to be urged and campaigned for in society at large, to oppose a social evil. Methodists themselves, now on their way up the social ladder, took temperance with them as part of their identity. It is not an essential part. John Wesley, while deploring drunkenness, liked his glass of beer. Jesus himself famously converted water to wine at Cana. The Christian communion service makes wine no more sinful than bread. Temperance, for many in Methodism, has become a neurotic obsession rather than an act of Christian witness. But before they abandon it completely, its honourable place in their history deserves salute. If they stuck the battle out a little longer, that was simply the measure of their commitment. And if it is damaging to them now, that is a price they would willingly have paid.



John Wesley: partial to the odd glass of beer

As Margaret Thatcher announces her decision to retire from the House of Commons, she tells Simon Jenkins of her determination to remain in the heat of the fray

## My dash for freedom

Margaret Thatcher sat back in the chair, banged her hands on its arms and cried "Freedom!" The word was not addressed to the oppressed of the world. "Now it's clear that I am not challenging John Major in any way. Some people have been thinking I was waiting in the wings. I never was. I wanted to give John a chance to form his own style, his own way and get into his own rhythm."

From most departing leaders, such remarks would be a valediction, a step through the door marked retirement and memoirs, a wander in the uplands of middle age. From Mrs Thatcher it is more a missile launcher ranging the horizon for targets. "A difficult period is over. When I speak now it's because of one thing: I want to get across a viewpoint that I believe is right. I shall feel free to answer direct questions. I am not going to change my views and I shall go on propounding them." She gives a start of anticipation. The war of politics is not over. It is merely being continued by other means.

What is clearly over is the horror of last November. The trauma, the organisational chaos, the loss-of-altruism sickness are past. Mrs Thatcher can and does still spit out the venom: "They chose to do that thing to me at a time when I was actually abroad negotiating and signing a treaty for my country with everyone else. So be it! So be it!" She gives herself as if for revenge, to hold forth on the European negotiations, interest rates, Iraq and the community charge. But then she stops herself and switches on the autopilot: "I did my level best for John. I supported John and am desperately anxious for him to be successful. We must win the next election."

Yet Mr Major's every chip at the sculpted edifice of Thatcherism pains her. Over the past six months, she has found it desperately hard, especially in the political conversation she craves, not to criticise his changes. She fumes over the council tax. Even President Bush's failure to push on to Baghdad after the Gulf war is laid at Mr Major's door. Well might he echo Melbourne's plea, for support not when I am doing right "but when I am doing wrong".

She views her old cabinet protégés, including the prime minister, with a mixture of motherly sympathy and fanatical concern. "A cabinet is not just who it is but how it is all pulled together. I've never believed in *primus inter pares*. The idea that you just go down to cabinet as a chairman seems to me bonkers. You're there to give a lead.

Unlike most retiring politicians she can summon up few Commons anecdotes. She is a firm believer in the House of Commons as the fount of democratic accountability, though she is not sentimental about leaving it. But she admits to learning lessons there. Harold Macmillan, who did her no favours towards the end of his career, was "a very different kind of politician from the one I am. He had the capacity to see the things we were doing now in historical perspective, to project forward and then back. I remember vividly the night of the long knives and determined later when I became prime minister that I would never have one."

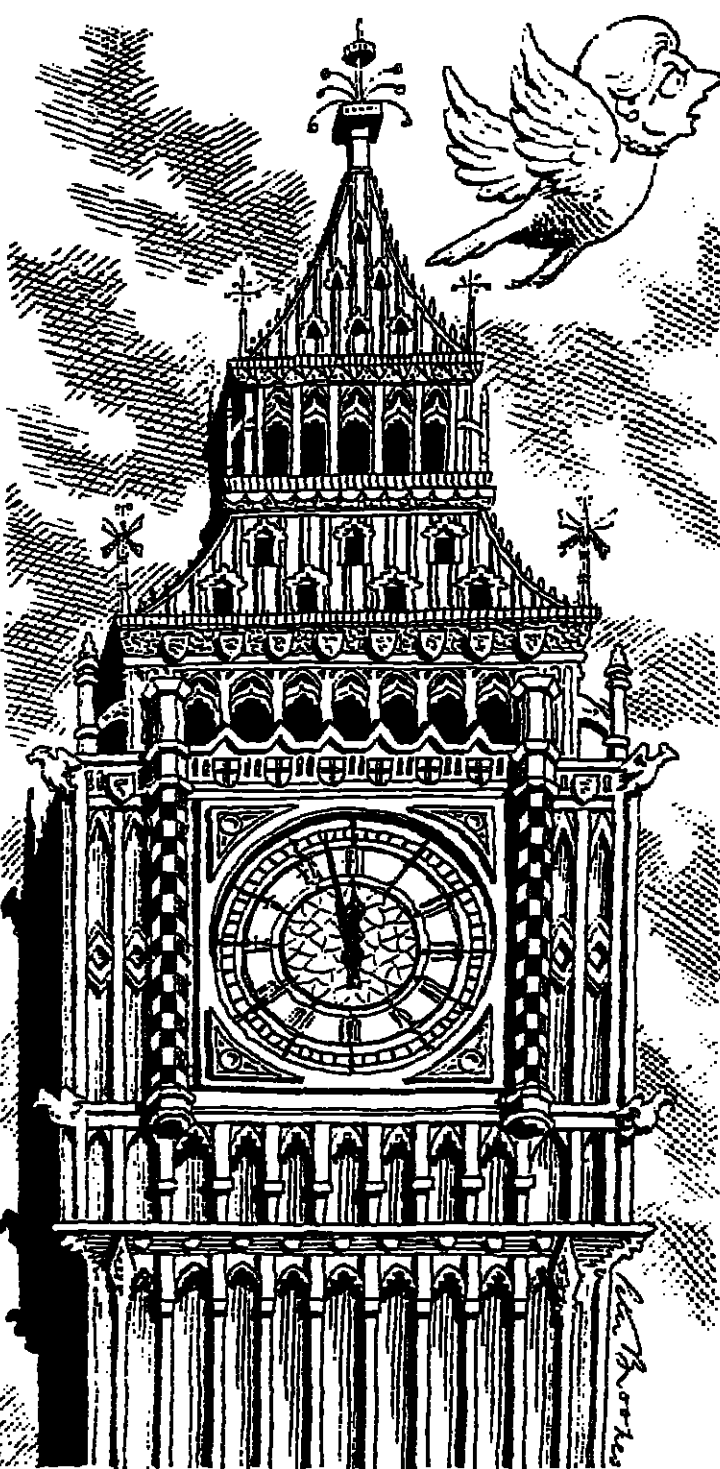
She shares the view of Lord Home as a remarkable team leader, "the most marvellous person to work for". She can even look back on Edward Heath with some admiration. "He got back in 1970 on a very good manifesto: Selsdon man. He had a passion for getting Britain right on those lines. So had I. What happened was the sudden sharp turn, the sharpest I have ever known. Again that taught me. It was not merely a change of policy, it was a change of direction. That was why Keith Joseph and I said we've got to go back to the drawing board."

Shorn of the grating specificity of government, Mrs Thatcher's mind wanders more than of old. Like an eccentric history don, she can widen and narrow her lens with alarming speed. A question on parliamentary procedure ends up in mid-Atlantic, one on memoirs drifts away to Leninism. But on her chosen subjects, she is sharp as ever, an unrepentant apologist for the decade of Thatcherism, the Glorious Eighties.

On Wednesday in the Commons, and on her recent American tour, the new European treaty and its creeping supranationalism was uppermost in her mind. Her realisation that she must fight it hard and in public, possibly embarrassing former colleagues, must have played a part in her decision to stand down.

Her antagonism to Jacques Delors is palpable, so much so that they might have more freedom than he has now with the monetary system... a bigger say in a central bank. I think that is a great misjudgment. The stronger Germany becomes, and she will, the more dominant she becomes, the less she will heed others."

She is implacably opposed to the treaty over which Mr Major and Douglas Hurd are battling this weekend in Luxembourg. "I am against majority voting. We ask people to obey the law, either because it stands for years of convention and custom or because it has been through the scrutiny of elected representatives. We say, 'If you are against it, you will have a chance to re-elect different representatives who can change it.' Some of the things in that new treaty are outrageous. We are asking elected representatives to arrange for people to obey a law even though those representatives may thoroughly disagree with it."



influence the Germans more than can any other country. He thinks he might have more freedom than he has now with the monetary system... a bigger say in a central bank. I think that is a great misjudgment. The stronger Germany becomes, and she will, the more dominant she becomes, the less she will heed others."

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From this concern, all else in Mrs Thatcher's emerging programme seems to follow. Not poll tax but surely the exchange-rate mechanism will be engaged on Mrs Thatcher's heart when she

dies. Her Great Mistake, as she has called it, was always to allow Nigel Lawson to shadow the Deutschmark. "It was putting exchange rate stability above monetary indicators." She denies that ERM entry was itself wrong, because of the six point band width and the freedom to adjust out of it. "The ERM is there to back up the decisions you make on monetary policy. You do not keep confidence in your currency by ignoring monetary indicators. If you insist on rigid exchange-rate stability, then any difficulties have to balloon out somewhere else, in inflation or unemployment and recession. Industrialists may ask for stability, but they are far more horrified when they get inflation or recession."

At this point, Mrs Thatcher pulls a little tighter on the main sheet and edges upward. A truth not universally acknowledged is that every politician not in government must needs be in opposition. Mrs Thatcher's views on Europe are of a piece with those on interest rates. "The debate we had on Europe is also about the economy. When you put up interest rates, it takes a long time for them to grip. When you start to

put them down, it takes a long time for the relaxation to work through. The guiding principle to me is that when the monetary indicators were signalling, and they were signalling in October, I took the rate down by one per cent, because I knew the real world. I was married to it. I got a lot of stick for it but I was right. I believe you keep confidence in your country and your currency when you do the right thing by the monetary indicators."

"So I don't have some other people's fears. Having been there a long time, I don't feel these fears. I don't have a hang-up about the exchange-rate mechanism. They were getting a bit nervous about it before and nevertheless took the interest rate down. If you are right for the real economy and right for money supply, you should be all right for the exchange rate."

"You have to consider those who have started up, gone for risk capital, all their costings have gone wrong. If you knock too much out (of the economy), you cannot start it up again. It is people's hopes, fears and dreams."

But why does she make such strident speeches on Europe but not on the domestic economy? I sense it is a personal matter. Europe is still open as an issue, still under discussion. Interest rates are closer to the bone of her Great Mistake, closer to the remembered agonies of Number Ten. She also knows any comment on this may seriously wound John Major, of whom she is now more supportive than of late. "I don't want to be accused of knocking the prime minister when he is overseas" - an alarmingly open prospect for his return - "you know my views from what I did and what I said. I had it made difficult for me when I was away."

How is the message now to be conveyed? Bravura performances in the Commons are to be no more. The Lords does not have the same electricity. Mrs Thatcher is having trouble with her memoirs and frankly admits to writer's block. "I have yet to get into writing. You (newspapers) can make economies live. I can do it with eyes, hands, intonation, enthusiasm. I find it difficult to convert that into black and white on the page. So I do it through speeches." But her speeches are not those of the back benches. "The things I want to say take maybe 45 minutes to do thoroughly. I get about ten invitations a week to address big gatherings. I would think you can probably do, on big issues, about four a year. And I like the big issues."

"I will still be around. I am not going. I have a house in central London which will act as a focus not only for people who believe in what I did but also for people in the academic world. We are out to influence thought, by argument." There is no secret as to those thoughts and arguments. Unlike the watery think-tanks of consensus politics, Mrs Thatcher's task is to defend a single construct from a single decade.

Asked in the most gentle way whether she accepted that a new prime minister, and a new era might usher in a new political map, she fiercely retorted, "I most earnestly hope not!" Whatever else happened yesterday, a senior British politician did not retire.

...and moreover

## MATTHEW PARRIS

This newspaper's Philip Howard, in many ways the Neom Chomsky of our age, is converting me, where Chomsky failed, to the belief that language shapes everything. Yesterday Howard sorted out federalism almost entirely by reference to Latin.

The Latin root of our English "federal", he said, is *foedus*. Unfortunately, he continued, *foedus* in Latin can be a noun or an adjective. As noun it means "treaty". As adjective it means "loathsome". Of course our "federal" (concluded Howard) comes from the noun.

Ah, but need it? Has Mr Howard not brought us to the threshold of the answer to this appalling political muddle, generously leaving me to unravel it in all its simple majesty?

That a word may have two sharply different meanings is not a problem in politics. It is a solution. If Johnny wants to go down to the river to fish, while his mother wants him to cash a cheque for her at Barclays, then all he needs to say is "Okay mum, I'm off to the bank." She's happy. He's happy. So what's the problem?

The problem, you say, is the row which lies ahead when Johnny comes home. There is a difference, you say, between a small trout and a £20 note. Ambiguous language only buys a temporary ceasefire, sowing the seeds for future discord. You are joined in that opinion by Douglas Hurd and John Major who told parliament this week that we must at all costs avoid the word "federal".

What? And miss the only way out of our problems? The cabinet's mistake is to equate going to Europe to look for agreement, with going to the Derwent to look for a fish. In the latter case you will eventually bring your trout home and it will or will not prove to be what mum was expecting. Something, in other words, will happen. Your language will be tested on the anvil of experience.

But, my dear prime minister and my dear foreign secretary, dear Bruges Group all: nothing is going to happen in Europe. Honestly, just wait and see! Crunches do come in human affairs, but they are never the crunches you expect and they never come when you expect them.

In *The Power and the Glory* Graham Greene's wretched dentist, trapped in a miserable existence in a godforsaken central American state, realises that the point at which this whole tragedy became inevitable occurred when he was a little boy and saw, in a wastepaper basket, a discarded dental cast. The boy thought what fun it would be to become a dentist.

So by all means let us cleave to federalism. Quietly, a written answer to a planned parliamentary question will be

slipped out on the Thursday before the Commons goes into summer recess, pushed from the news by a shock announcement that the prime minister and Mrs Major are to spend their summer holiday at Pontins holiday camp on Barry Island.

Mr William Cash (C, Stafford): "To ask the prime minister what is the government's definition of the concept of European federalism, and if he will make a statement."

The prime minister: "European federalism means the continuation in perpetuity of the complete and utter sovereignty of the United Kingdom in all matters of domestic, social, economic, foreign and defence policy. It involves the refusal to accept the legitimacy of any European institutions, democratically based or otherwise, at whatever level and in whatever form, to interfere or involve themselves in any way with the government or administration of the United Kingdom, excepting only the transfer of funds to this country."

That, I think, will satisfy the anti-federalists and end the dispute. But disputes are a vital part of Westminster politics and a replacement must be found. It is preferable if they turn upon matters of no conceivable consequence, which is why the focus on Europe has been unwise. Can I suggest the Tory party spends the rest of the year arguing about the definition of "sausage"?

After all, as Virgil (was it?) said, "we are all federalists, now." He may have meant "loathsome".

## Ready, set, goodbye

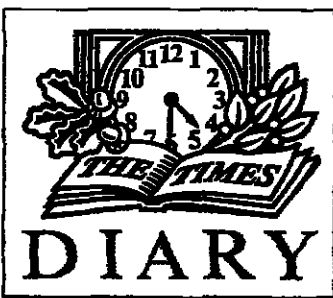
Nobody can now accuse Mrs Thatcher of hanging around. Contrary to popular assumption, an examination of the history books shows that her departure from the Commons could be one of the most rapid of any post-war prime minister.

An October general election would mean that only Sir Anthony Eden, who resigned his seat at the same time that he stood down as prime minister in 1957, will have departed with more haste. If, as is more likely, the election is delayed until next June, Harold Macmillan will edge Mrs Thatcher into third place. After resigning the premiership through ill-health in October 1963, he left the Commons almost exactly a year later, at the 1964 election.

Most have stayed much longer. Mrs Thatcher's predecessor, Jim Callaghan, remained in the Commons until the 1987 election, eight years after losing the premiership and six after resigning as party leader. Harold Wilson, too, was in no hurry to go. After his sudden resignation from the premiership in 1976, he remained on the backbenches until the 1983 election.

After resigning as prime minister in 1955, Winston Churchill stayed on to become father of the house, a position he held until he retired from the Commons in 1964, one month short of his 90th birthday. Even Alec Douglas-Home stayed a decade after his defeat at the 1964 election, including a year as opposition leader and a spell as foreign secretary from 1970 until he returned to the House of Lords in 1974.

Ted Heath is the one who will enter the record books. His 17 years in the Commons since giving up the red dispatch boxes has just taken him past Arthur Balfour, prime minister from 1902 to



1905, who stayed breathing down the neck of his successors until 1922. Heath's decision to stand again now puts him in sight of David Lloyd George, who did not quit the Commons until 1945, some 22 years after leaving Downing Street for the last time.

● A heartfelt plea from the editor of *New Scientist*: will contributors please stop sending articles which use the word "disconnect". Given the technological nature of much of the magazine's material, the word crops up a rather a lot. It seems. Every time it does, the *New Scientist* computer promptly obeys and shuts down. Suggested synonyms, courtesy of Roger: suspend, break off, snap the thread, interrupt, etc. etc.

## Appeal of Bell

Crown Prince Alexander, the man who would be king of the troubled state of Yugoslavia, has turned his supporters at home in Belgrade to good use. They are carrying out opinion polls to gauge whether the mood is right for a return. "It is definitely working," insists a spokeswoman for the prince. "They are holding banners on the streets calling for the return of the king." Observers detect the hand of Sir Tim Bell, once Margaret Thatcher's favourite idea maker.

Although Alexander has never set foot in Yugoslavia, he believes

that recent turbulent events will put him on the throne in Belgrade "within two years".

Others are less sure. His uncle, Prince Tomislav, whose father was the last reigning king, says: "It will take more than a public relations firm. If you ask people in the street if they want the king to return, of course they will say yes. But it means nothing."

Working with Bell on the royal account is Elizabeth Buchanan, Cecil Parkinson's former adviser, who has arranged for the prince to address a group of MPs for the first time on Tuesday.

● Sir Ian McKellen, who opened in Napoli Millionaria at the National on Thursday, muses in next month's *Theatre* magazine on why he is never offered romantic parts. "After all," he says, "who's going to cast a Romeo who fancies Mercutio rather than Juliet? Hardly something which would have troubled the Elizabethans: Juliet was always played by a boy."

## Royal oil

In a rare exercise of his rights as member of the House of Lords, the Prince of Wales is to contribute an oil painting to the annual exhibition by members of both Houses of Parliament. Although Prince Charles has only

spoken twice in the Lords since his investiture 22 years ago, he nevertheless qualifies as an exhibitor. The Prince has still not decided which painting to offer, but it will be an oil. "It could come from his pictures hanging either at Kensington Palace or Highgrove. He is still choosing," says a spokesman.

## Into the red?

Did Saatchi & Saatchi, the advertising agency which helped the Tories to power in 1979 with its famous slogan "Labour isn't working", make a pitch for the Labour party account before it re-signed with the Tories earlier this year?

According to Labour officials, Neil Kinnock's private office received an unsolicited invitation from the agency to a lunch at the Savoy a year ago, before Saatchi's signed up again with Conservative Central Office. Among those present, according to Labour, were Julie Hall, Kinnock's press secretary, and Bill Muirhead, the Saatchi chairman. "They were serious about working for Labour," says a spokesman. "They were sounding us out." Saatchi's deny the approach. "It seems as if Labour is trying to discredit our relationship with the Tory party."

Hardly surprising: the first poster campaign by Saatchi's for the Tories under their new contract was launched this week. But if Kinnock's people had employed the Saatchis, what slogan might they have used? How about "Labour is working"?

● A five year study, 150,000 passengers questioned and John Pridoux, managing director of InterCity, is ready to unveil the results of British Rail's research into its customers' key needs. "A seat and one which is comfortable - a frequent service and a clean and comfortable train which arrives on time," he writes. Now why on earth didn't they think of that before?



July, 1991



from the House of  
main in the heat of the fray  
edom



## LESS THAN RETIRING

The marks of a truly great leader are not courage, nor energy, nor fixity of purpose. All the qualities which the British and the world have come to associate with Margaret Thatcher have been possessed by some of the worst as well as the best rulers. The decisive virtue is the pursuit of justice, tempered with humanity. A great leader is loved as well as respected. The most valuable achievements of her three decades in Parliament, their end announced yesterday, may only be visible after her political career has ended. But the mellowing of her folk memory began in the tears shed at the Conservative women's conference yesterday.

Of her faults, whole books can and have been written. She was unyielding and sometimes unfair towards anybody who offended her sense of justice. These included colleagues as well as union leaders, nationalised industries, introverted institutions such as the universities or the Foreign Office — or European bureaucrats. The poll tax fitted her idea of justice but hardly anybody else's. Her attitude towards social misfortune, such as unemployment, old age, homelessness or poverty was at times insensitively impatient. Her practice was often less principled than her rhetoric. In the reform of Parliament and government she was conservative to the point of inertia.

Yet Mrs Thatcher's isolation was not incompatible with sound administration. She was her own government's best gadfly, constantly enquiring and interfering, cajoling and nagging. She appreciated expertise and experience, but in her heyday she had more of both than most of her colleagues. Her centralising tendencies are undeniable, and at least in the case of local government, undesirable. She could not see that what she deplored in Brussels she lauded in Whitehall. Yet her style of management has been copied in many lands. The imprint of her non-sensitively attitude on the mind of the British will outlive her laws and triumphs.

Her stand against international bullies was consistent: Galtieri, Gadaffi, Saddam

were only the small fry. Less well-remembered but more important was her steady criticism of the Soviet leviathan during the early 1980s when its weakness was not yet apparent. She never took the subjection of Eastern Europe for granted, and seized on Mikhail Gorbachev as the gravedigger of his own system. Mrs Thatcher was revered almost from the first beyond the Iron Curtain and her work in retirement will concentrate heavily on stiffening the resolve of Eastern Europeans to complete their own liberation.

Europe was her downfall, but it was also the battle in which she would have chosen to go down. In the Commons last Wednesday she gave a speech which thrilled a jaded political elite and showed them what they will now be missing. The Lords is no substitute. However inept some of her dealings with Germany, France and other EC states, she never lost sight of what mattered most: the sovereignty of the British Parliament, given to government on trust only, by the electorate. As she points out in her interview opposite, this trust can never be bargained away.

A magnificent abandon marked her valedictory oration: "Our sovereignty does not come from Brussels. It is ours by right and by heritage." No prime minister has struck that note since Churchill's wartime polemics against the peace party of his day. Mrs Thatcher sees them reincarnated in the federalist camp today. She will not be silenced. The phoney war of the last few months — begun long before her resignation — is now over. John Major has to stand and fight in Brussels for parliamentary sovereignty, whether he likes it or not.

Mrs Thatcher may have been ousted but she is not out. Seldom has a prime minister departed the scene with more resolve to remain active in the wings. She may prove a fierce ally on Europe, but she may also be a fierce critic. John Major has seemed impatient of her presence. He is not rid of this remarkable woman yet.

## END OF A FEDERATION

By ironic chance, the agony of a federation tearing itself apart dominated yesterday's opening of a summit due to debate whether to steer the European Community towards a federal future. In Yugoslavia, the struggle to shed the bonds of an unloved federation has brought blood to the streets and bombs to the airports. That federation is now doomed. The only form of cohabitation which might now be acceptable to its dozen ethnic groups, divided as they are by race, religions and languages, is a confederation of sovereign republics.

EC heads of government would doubtless reject any Balkan parallels as irrelevant to the Europe of the 12. Yet the perils of ignoring the strong pull of national identities must have been on the minds of the foreign ministers from Italy, Luxembourg and The Netherlands as they sped anxiously to Belgrade to try to broker an end to the fighting.

The bloodshed in Slovenia has finally made Western politicians take seriously the tragic potential of a confrontation which has been building up for months in the world's full view. Yesterday's whirl of activity contrasts with months of unimaginative Western diplomacy, when blanket Western support for Yugoslav unity took the pressure off Serbia, chief opponent of a loose association of sovereign republics.

The ability of foreign governments, however rich and influential, to canalise antagonisms as deep and ancient as those between Serbs and Croats into peaceable directions has always been limited. But the odds on successful mediation would have been greater before frustrated nationalism prompted Croatia and Slovenia to declare independence this week — a decision well signalled in advance, as was the Yugoslav army's determination to hold the federation together at gunpoint.

Yugoslavia is now the rough proving ground for the untried conciliation machin-

ery of the 35-nation Conference for Security and Co-operation in Europe. As a first step to mediation, the Community, which has called for an emergency meeting of the CSCE next week, is seeking a trade-off between the dissident republics and the federal government, including a return to barracks by the federal army and delayed implementation of the Slovenian and Croatian independence declarations. The two republics are unlikely to agree without some external acknowledgement of their right to self-government, if not full independence.

That should be granted, not least in order to put pressure on Serbia to negotiate.

The Yugoslav army's announcement yesterday that it was ceasing military activity in Slovenia, having secured the frontiers with Italy and Austria, cannot excuse the brutality with which it enforced federal authority. For all the bitterness that has aroused, a truce is just possible. But to move from truce to peace will still be a giant step. The outlines of a workable solution have already been put forward by the two republics, Macedonia and multi-ethnic Bosnia-Herzegovina, which have most to lose from Yugoslavia's disintegration.

They envisage a community of sovereign republics anchored to a confederation, with central authority confined to external security and guardianship of a common currency and single market. Croats and Slovenians are still ready to talk along those lines, as is the federal prime minister, Ante Markovic. The point of outside mediation must be to impress on Serbia's strongman, Slobodan Milosevic, that he has no hope of preserving the Serb-dominated federation. Only if he is shown that Serbia's choice is between joining a new Yugoslav community, and splendid and impoverished isolation, will he come to the table. And only the West can get that message across.

## BUGS AND BABBAGE

A touch of pride is not out of place at the Science Museum's new exhibition to mark the 200th anniversary of the birth of Charles Babbage, a key figure in the history of the computer. Though parallel work was being done elsewhere, British inventiveness deserves more than half the credit for the computer's early development. But from then on the story was not so happy.

As its tribute to him the museum has built a superb working model of Babbage's difference engine No 2 to go with its existing pride and joy, the unfinished engine No 1 built by Babbage himself. Until 1842 his project was partly funded by the government. But poor Babbage was pressing hard at the frontiers of mathematics and technology, and the government got cold feet. Not until a century later, when deciphering German Enigma intercepts demanded number-crunching power as never before, did the nation receive any return from its £17,470 investment in him. The great code-breaking machine built at Bletchley in wartime was the world's first real working computer.

One of Babbage's chief associates was Lord Byron's brilliant daughter, Augusta Ada, the Countess of Lovelace, who is immortalised in the high-level computing language named ADA. Though he called her his "enchantress of numbers" she was much more than a decoration. Her 1843 description of Babbage's proposed analytical engine is today one of the main historical sources: she understood the theory of mechanical computation almost better than he did.

Less famous though not less significant than Babbage and the countess is their

contemporary George Boole, who gave his name to Boolean algebra. Born in Lincoln, he was professor of mathematics at Cork. He invented a symbolic language for handling logical relationships, described in his *Mathematical Analysis of Logic* (1847). If Babbage was the father of hardware, the machinery of computing, Boole fathered the theory behind program software.

Though Bertrand Russell was influenced by it, Boolean algebra remained little more than an intellectual curiosity until his invention was elegantly applied to the arithmetic of binary numbers, with which computers work. The irony linking Boole with Babbage and the "enchanted" Ada is that by the turn of the century none of their work seemed likely to be relevant to the age just beginning. Yet they were as truly among the prophets of its technology as Maxwell, Rutherford and Thomson were the prophets of modern physics.

Computer folklore has it that one program's failure on an early American machine was traced to a beetle shorting a circuit. Since then every faulty program has needed to be "debugged", to find its metaphorical beetles. The spellings and the jargon of modern computing are decidedly 1950s-American, for that is where, after its British phase, the story of computing moved. The modern computer is a testament to British genius, but also a witness to the bugs in the national character which often hold back the commercial exploitation of British inventions. Perhaps the Science Museum could next stage a salutary exhibition of Great British Might-Have-Beens.

## Is Tower guard on the way out?

From Alastair Bruce of Crinaich  
Sir, Rumour has it that, consequent to army cuts, plans are being hatched to abolish the Tower of London guard. Should this occur, the ceremony of the keys, said to be the world's oldest ceremonial parade, would disappear; so would the Tower's military tradition, maintained since the 11th century. Most alarmingly, the regalia would be exposed to risk.

The keys ceremony has existed for more than 600 years; it is part of the living archaeology of Britain: easy to destroy, impossible to revive.

The Crown Jewels are not just valuable gems, they are vulnerable and important symbols of sovereign independence and free speech. Their demerit-religious status renders them as much a potential focus for revolution today as they were in 1642, when Cromwell had them smashed for fear of their symbolism.

The detachment taking post this morning has the most important symbolic military task on the mainland. As a subject, I am suspicious of any political move, however innocent, which reduces this guard, or seeks to replace it.

Yours faithfully,  
ALASTAIR BRUCE OF CRINAICH,  
9 Churton Place, SW1,  
June 28.

## Warhead security

From the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence  
Sir, Lord Williams of Elvel (June 24) raises an important issue on the Atomic Weapons Establishment bill. He asks whether contractor operation of AWE could give foreign companies access to designs and production methods used in British nuclear warheads. The answer is no.

The AWE contract will be let to a UK-based and UK-controlled prime contractor who can meet our strict security requirements. In practice, where nuclear warhead information is concerned, foreign firms would not be able to satisfy our security requirements.

Indeed, not all British companies or individuals would pass the very strict vetting that is a prerequisite for access to sensitive nuclear warhead information. This vetting requirement applies regardless of whether the personnel concerned are civil servants or company employees.

We will also look closely at any foreign connections which the UK-based contractor may have, and assess the security implications carefully to ensure that there is no risk of nuclear warhead information falling into undesirable hands.

Moreover, employees of AWE and of the prime contractor will not, of course, be allowed to pass nuclear warhead information to anyone who does not need to know it, either in companies or (as now) in the civil service.

I entirely share the concern that information about nuclear weapons should not fall into undesirable hands, whether foreign or otherwise. The point which I was making in the House of Lords on June 14 was that it is security, rather than nationality per se, which must be our paramount concern.

Yours faithfully,  
ARRAN,  
Ministry of Defence,  
Main Building, Whitehall, SW1.

## Navy court martial

From Lieutenant-Colonel I. L. Stimson (ret'd)  
Sir, His Honour Judge Finney (June 21) is no doubt correct to regard the naval court martial proceedings ("Gulf warship Wren and airman are fined £75k", June 14) as out of proportion, but, only from the civilian point of view. Service law has to cater for the special aspects of service life.

Disobedience to orders, especially on active service, cannot be condoned whatever the degree of disobedience. Asleep on sentry duty or watch cannot, for example, be equated with taking a nap on the night shift.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,  
I. L. STIMSON  
(Permanent President of Courts Martial, Army (1975-7)).  
White Horse Cottage,  
Ampleforth, York.

## John Major in context

From Mr Bruce Anderson  
Sir, Nicholas Ridley, in his review (article, June 25) of my book on John Major, states that "in part one... the electorate is never mentioned". I first use the word "voters" in the second paragraph of page 1; from then on, throughout the entire first section, there are constant references to by-elections, opinion polls and to electoral considerations in general. There is even a mention of Mr Ridley as an electoral factor: "Some Tory MPs would remind one that a government without Nicky Ridley was no worse off electorally". He also asserts that "hardly a word is said about policies" (in fact, almost an entire chapter is devoted to the community charge and Europe and the Thatcher government's economic policy is discussed extensively) and that the exchange-rate mechanism and European monetary union are dismissed as matters of little substance... The shadowing of the Deutschemark... and the recession that followed are dismissed as inevitable — part of the background — like the weather.

It would, of course, be prepos-

## Clergy's attitudes to pre-marital sex

From the Reverend D. L. Graham  
Sir, "Virtually nothing in the Old or New Testaments says that sex before marriage is wrong", claims Clifford Longley (June 22). I cannot agree.

The Old Testament takes a stern line towards pre-marital sex, just as it does against adultery, both being offences against a man's property — either his virgin daughter or his wife. The first Christians, being Jews, continued with the same emphasis on chastity for the unmarried, and this became a standard part of Christian mores, being reinforced by the strange un-Christian view that sex equals sin which infiltrated Christianity from the third century onwards.

The New Testament has no discussion of nor condemnation of pre-marital sex. What it does have is great condemnation of fornication, which word, in every case, is the translation of the Greek *porneia*, which has only one meaning, "prostitution", no less and no more.

Along with most priests who preside at the marriage of couples in church I am well aware that a great many of the couples before me are already living together and have had sexual intercourse together. Where is the sin?

Yours sincerely,  
DOUGLAS GRAHAM,  
Forest Cottage, West Woods,  
Lockridge, Wiltshire,  
June 22.

From Mr Michael P. Clancy  
Sir, Clifford Longley's interesting article covered the situation in England as regards the Tridentine reforms of 1563 and the Hardwicke reforms of 1753. Developments were somewhat different in Scotland.

The Scottish Reformation of 1560 precluded the application of the Tridentine decrees by its abrogation of papal authority. Accordingly, the canon law requirement to have a marriage celebrated in church had no application in Scotland.

Instead, Scottish matrimonial law rested on the pre-Reformation law, which, as well as allowing marriages to be celebrated in church, admitted of three types of irregular or clandestine marriage — mutual exchange of present consent; a promise of future marriage upon which intercourse followed, i.e. marriage by consummation; and marriage by cohabitation with habit and repute, whereby a man and woman openly cohabited as husband and wife, leading to a presumption of exchange of matrimonial consent.

The Marriage (Scotland) Act 1939 abolished the first two, leaving the third as the only valid form of irregular marriage in Scotland. Regular marriage before a clergyman or a

## Patronoster issues

From the Secretary of the Royal Fine Art Commission  
Sir, In his report, "Disneyland gibe at St Paul's plan" (June 21), Mr Marcus Binney distorts the views of the Royal Fine Art Commission by implying that the "gibe" refers to the designs as a whole. In its press statement, the commission made it clear that "unpleasant Disneyland" referred specifically to the new Paternoster Square itself, with its cluster of temples and loggias, adding that this would "affect perceptions of the whole scheme".

To suggest, moreover, that the commission's remarks are those of one group of architects attacking others who have taken their place because five commissioners were involved in the earlier rejected scheme is a cheap way of casting doubt on the integrity of commission members. The commission consists of 18 members, of whom

## Priestland plaque?

From Mr Godfrey Talbot  
Sir, Your immaculate obituary of Gerald Priestland (June 22) was an accolade needing no embroidery. But may an ancient wordsmith with a lifetime of BBC service behind him, please that a modest plaque to the man may one day grace Portland Place, if not quite the Abbey.

Priestland's work remains a model for arresting comment on the religious and other affairs to which he put hand and voice — a flag to follow. He came into our post-Keith, post-war airings, I remember, as an immediately likeable six-foot of exuberance from Oxford, and no foreign parts to which we sent him as a correspondent did anything but

ferocious to describe those matters in that way. My book contains 306 pages of text. I challenge Mr Ridley to produce one sentence from all those pages to justify his claim.

Appropos of the shadowing of the Deutschemark, I wrote: "It was the boldest experiment in economic policy in British history". Part of the background, Mr Ridley? Like the weather? "Never before had a Chancellor sought to override the prime minister's veto and proceed regardless".

I am accused of dismissing Margaret Thatcher as a "bossy old has-been who could never have won another election" (Nicholas Ridley's phrase, not mine). My conclusion was:

Margaret Thatcher's hatred of inflation is second in intensity only to her love of her country. It was a tragic irony, therefore, that her premiership should have been destroyed by the resurgence of inflation. Had it been under control, Mrs Thatcher... would still be prime minister, on course for a fourth election win.

Yours etc.,  
BRUCE ANDERSON,  
Travellers' Club,  
106 Pall Mall, SW1,  
June 25.

registrar is, of course, the usual method of constituting marriage.

Recognition of marriage by habit and repute is still a vibrant doctrine in Scots law. A recent case, in 1982, decided that 11 months cohabitation was sufficient to create the presumption of marriage. The means of having such a relationship recognised by law is by way of an action of declarator of marriage.

In Scotland, "common law marriage" is a legally recognisable concept. It does not rely on folk memory and has never needed reinvention.

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL P. CLANCY  
(Secretary, Law Reform),  
The Law Society of Scotland,  
36 Drumhugh Gardens,  
Edinburgh 3,  
June 25.

From Rabbi Dr Sidney Brichto  
Sir, Clifford Longley may be blazing new trails in religious morality but observances in his analysis of biblical and medieval attitudes to sex and marriage. He concludes that pre-marital sex was not considered sinful and seems to suggest that a revision in our attitudes would be constructive. Before 1753, as he says, "marriage proper was preceded by betrothal or espousal, during which sexual intercourse was allowed, though the couple would not necessarily live together".

The Church and the Synagogue should face the sad fact that the romantic idealisation of marriage often leads to deep disillusionment very soon after the marital promises have been exchanged. For many mature young people, living together, of which sexual intercourse is a relatively minor aspect, has become the prescription for testing the strength of their relationships before marriage and childbirth.

Should this be condemned? Perhaps the time has come for the reinstitution of betrothal (which also in Judaism was originally a ceremony separate from that of marriage) when the Church and Synagogue would indicate their approval of a couple's marital intention without requiring that ultimate commitment to a relationship which is still untried.

Ministers of religion should welcome the opportunity of officiating at weddings of couples where periods of harmonious betrothal promise a future of spiritual fulfilment rather than the foreboding of the possible pain of separation and divorce.

Faithfully,  
SIDNEY BRICHTO,  
The Montagu Centre,  
109 Whitfield Street, W1.

nine are not architects. In the case of Paternoster, all 18 members contributed fully to the commission's corporate view as expressed in the press statement.

By accusing the commission of diverting the debate towards matters such as density, use, traffic and coach parking, Mr Binney is unfortunately perpetuating an attitude which has consistently obscured the real issues at Paternoster. These are not about style but about the need for a comprehensive plan for the whole area around St Paul's against which the development of any part of the area can be assessed and which would, of course, be precisely about those strategic matters considered by Mr Binney to be a diversion.

Yours faithfully,  
SHERBAN CANTACUZINO,  
Secretary,  
The Royal Fine Art Commission,  
7 St James's Square, SW1,  
June 21.

fuel his spirit and skill: he was a riveting reporter.

When he came home he made religion and faith as fascinating as a Frederick Forsyth thriller (he was still one of our news men). There had never been anything like Priestland's pointed irreverence. He was judicious as well as joyful — and never "holly". Faith and fun, blessings and beer, prayer and punctuation, archdeacon and agnostics — he harnessed them brilliantly together for the common man.

And nothing became him like his own name. For, in him, press-land blew salutary blasts into priest-land.

Yours gratefully,  
GODFREY TALBOT,  
Holmwell, Hook Hill,  
Sanderstead, Surrey.

From Mr Jeremy Catto  
Sir, Mr Nicholas Ridley's robust review of Bruce Anderson's book does less than justice to its political seriousness. Mr Anderson is accused of seeing politics as a matter of "whips, power struggles and presentation"; in fact, he attributes the undermining of the last prime minister to policy disagreements over European integration and the community charge.

Nor do I find Mrs Thatcher dismissed as a "bossy old has-been". Her fall from power was certainly a tragedy, and very possibly a mistake, and her own role in the matter a model of restraint. But it was an historical event and demands explanation.

Instant history with its mundane details is a legitimate genre and it would be a foolhardy historian who found no role for trivial circumstances or chance in a political crisis. Mr Anderson's book is unlikely to be the last word on the matter. But as a first word, from a participant, it seems to me admirable.

Yours sincerely,  
JEREMY CATTO,  
Oriol College, Oxford,  
June 25.

## Double threat to 'Garden of Eden'

From Dr David McCoy  
Sir, I have just returned from the remarkable island of Siberut, off the west coast of Sumatra, Indonesia. It houses not only the majestic beauty of the tropical rainforest but also a fauna that is unique. The WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature) has reported 60 per cent of its mammals as being endemic, including four primates found nowhere else in the world. Its scientific and environmental importance was recognised in 1981 when Unesco declared the island as a biosphere reserve.

Apart from the flora and fauna, Siberut also contains a unique indigenous tribal population, many of whom live a culturally rich and fulfilling life directly off the forest. The many who cling to their traditional roots still know the secret of living without destroying their environment.

A double tragedy awaits this island, described by Sir Thomas Raffles in 1821 as the Garden of Eden. The wildlife has been threatened with extinction for several years as a result of logging, but now faces an ecological armageddon with plans to convert over 50 per cent of the island into oil-palm and softwood plantations.

The second tragedy lies with the tribal people who face impoverishment and a cultural death. Efforts are constantly being made by the authorities to relocate them against their wishes into government villages far from their source of livelihood.

Plans to translocate settlers from Java threaten to turn the native population into a minority on their own land. There has been talk of using bachelor transmigrants to dilute the racial stock of the islanders.

While we should encourage and support Indonesia's role in nature conservation for the world, we should unequivocally condemn its policies of ethniccide in West Papua, East Timor and Irian Jaya. Siberut may soon join this list.

There is no exaggeration in such serious and fierce accusations. What is surprising is how easily Suharto's regime has been able to get away with it. The double threat of environmental tragedy and tribal ethniccide must not be allowed to happen.

Yours sincerely,  
DAVID MCCOY,  
Bangalow 3,  
Stoke Mandeville Hospital,  
Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire.

## Safety on the river

From Mrs Daphne Shaw  
Sir, Last week my husband attended the funeral of a young man who tragically drowned whilst fishing on the Spey in Scotland. A wife without a husband, children without a father, and a brilliant career as a surgeon in the Royal Navy ended, because he was wearing chest-high waders.

Why do not those who fish rivers wear more clothing which will not fill with water? It would seem to me that a waterproof suit, similar to the wet-suits worn by windsurfers, would be a sensible alternative to waders and could prevent such tragic accidents in the future.

Perhaps some enterprising manufacturer of sporting clothes could come up with a safe waterproof suit which would blend with the Scottish scenery; it could be a life-saver and a success as well.

Yours sincerely,  
DAPHNE SHAW,  
Lislie House,  
Tredenhall Road,  
St Marys, Cornwall,  
June 24.

## Summer not icumen in

From Mr Geoffrey W. Ince  
Sir, Your correspondence on the summer weather (June 24, 27) is of particular interest to me as an umbrella manufacturer.

The first week of Wimbledon 1988 was very wet and my staff and I were interviewed by a television team on our inability to cope with the climate. The next day, the rain stopped and this began three years, almost to the day, of drought which was later joined by the recession.

I hope providence is on our side this time.

Yours etc.,  
GEOFF INCE,  
James Ince & Sons (Umbrellas),  
9-10 The Oval, Hackney Road, E2.

From Mrs Valerie Riches  
Sir, Mr Gordon Griffiths (June 27) wants a suitable punishment to be inflicted on the propagators of the notion of global warming. May I suggest a one-way ticket to the moon by rocket through the hole in the ozone layer.

Yours sincerely,  
VALERIE RICHES,  
Wicken Manor,  
Wicken, Northamptonshire.

From Mrs Polly Carr  
Sir, A young boy complained to his grandfather that the weather was terrible. His grandfather replied, "Yes, lad, but it's better than nothing".

Yours faithfully,  
POLLY CARR,  
67 Elton Road, Bishopston,  
Bristol, Avon.

Weekend Money letters, page 34

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071 782 5046).





COURT CIRCULAR

PALACE OF HOLYROODHOUSE

June 28: The Queen this morning inaugurated the British Rail City 225 Service from London to Edinburgh.

Having been received at King's Cross Station by the Mayor of Camden (Councillor Jim Turner), the Secretary of State for Transport (the Right Hon Malcolm Rifkind, MP) and Sir Bob Reid (Chairman, British Rail), Her Majesty unveiled the nameplate of the locomotive "Queen Elizabeth II" before boarding the train.

Upon arrival at Newcastle Station The Queen was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Tyne and Wear (Colonel Sir Ralph Carr-Ellison), the Lord Mayor of Newcastle (Councillor T.J. Marr) and Mr John Nelson (InterCity Route Director) and unveiled a commemorative plaque.

The Queen later arrived at Waverley Station, Edinburgh, and, having been received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for the City of Edinburgh (Mrs Eleanor McLaughlin, the Right Hon the Lord Provost and Mr David Watson (InterCity Manager Scotland), unveiled the nameplate of the locomotive "Palace of Holyroodhouse".

The Queen then drove to the Palace of Holyroodhouse and was received in the forecourt by the Right Hon the Lord Provost and Members of the City of Edinburgh District Council, when the Right Hon the Lord Provost presented to Her Majesty the Keys of the City, which The Queen returned to her.

A Guard of Honour found by the 1st Battalion The Gordon Highlanders, under the command of Major Keith Legge, was mounted in the forecourt.

The Queen was subsequently received by the Hereditary Keeper of the Palace of Holyroodhouse (The Duke of Hamilton and Brandon).

The High Constables of the Palace of Holyroodhouse were on duty.

The following are in attendance: The Earl of Airlie (Lord Chamberlain), the Countess of Airlie and Lady Abel Smith (Ladies in Waiting), the Right Hon Sir Robert Fellows (Private Secretary to the Queen), Rear Admiral Sir Paul Greenock (Master of the Household), Lieutenant-Colonel Malcolm Ross (Comptroller, Lord Chamberlain's Office), Sir Kenneth Scott (Deputy Private Secretary), Mr Charles Anson (Press Secretary), Lieutenant Colonel Blair Stewart Wilson (Deputy Master of the Household), Mr John Haslam (Deputy Press Secretary), Lieutenant Colonel Anthony Mather (Secretary, Central Chancery of the Orders of Knighthood and Assistant Comptroller, Lord

Chamberlain's Office), Wing Commander David Walker RAF (Equerry in Waiting) and Lieutenant-Commander Malcolm Sillers RN (Equerry to The Duke of Edinburgh).

The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron and Past President of the National Federation of Housing Association, visited the Institute of Housing Annual Conference at the International Conference Centre, Harrogate.

His Royal Highness, Colonel-in-Chief, later visited the 1st Battalion The Queen's Own Highlanders (Seaforth and Cameron) and, as Colonel, visited the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards, at Munster, Federal Republic of Germany.

Captain George Rocke was in attendance.

Lady Abel Smith has succeeded the Hon Mary Morrison as Lady in Waiting to The Queen.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE June 28: The Royal, President, Riding for the Disabled Association, today opened the new Gallery at the Drum Riding Centre, Gilmerton, Edinburgh and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for the City of Edinburgh (Mrs Eleanor McLaughlin, the Rt Hon the Lord Provost).

Afterwards Her Royal Highness, The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, attended an Open Day at Veterinary Field Station, Easter Bush Estate, Roslin and was received by Her Majesty's Lord Provost and Members of the City of Edinburgh District Council, when the Right Hon the Lord Provost presented to Her Majesty the Keys of the City, which The Queen returned to her.

This evening The Princess Royal, President, Save the Children Fund, attended a Dinner at Bruntsfield House, Edinburgh, and a Ball in Charlotte Square and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for the City of Edinburgh (Mrs Eleanor McLaughlin, the Rt Hon the Lord Provost).

Mrs Andrew Feilden was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE June 28: The Prince of Wales, President, Business in the Community, received Mr Neil Shaw (Chairman), Mr Stephen O'Brien (Chief Executive) and Regional Directors. Subsequently His Royal Highness received Mr Tony Cleaver, Miss Cathryn Ferguson and Miss Elaine Sullivan.

KENSINGTON PALACE June 28: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, visited Harrow School, Harrow on the Hill, this afternoon and attended the Songs Concert. The Countess Alexander of Tunis was in attendance.

Tomorrow is the thirtieth anniversary of the marriage of Prince and Princess Michael of Kent.

OBITUARIES

SIR ASHTON ROSKILL

Sir Ashton (Wentworth) Roskill, QC, formerly chairman of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, died on June 23 aged 89. He was born on January 1, 1902.

ASHTON Roskill held the chairmanship of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission for ten years (1965-75), a tenure longer than any of his predecessors or successors. In that period he presided over panels of the commission which produced no fewer than 43 reports — 22 on monopoly references and 21 on mergers or intended mergers. In addition he took responsibility for numerous other reports produced by other panels chaired by the deputy chairman. The volumes used to pack a cupboard as a monument to his industry. Ministers with their characteristic impatience sometimes felt that Roskill took too long over his reports but he was not to be hurried, being always intent on doing a fair and thorough job.

The reports were varied: on colour films, man-made cellulose fibres, green cards, beer, breakfast cereals, cross-channels, professional services (a report which did not endear him to his own profession), refusal to supply, asbestos, and on mergers such as Allied Breweries/Unilever, Rank/De la Rue, Beecham/Glaxo/Boots, House of Fraser/Boots and so on. But one was pre-eminent. This was the report on chloroquine (Liberium) and diazepam (Valium) where the commission recommended that the price should be cut by, in effect, 40 per cent and 60 per cent respectively. This was a bold recommendation which a brave Minister for Trade and Consumer Affairs, Sir Geoffrey Howe, accepted, with the result that the government found itself embroiled in legislation and litigation which went to the House of Lords more than once but from which it eventually emerged victorious. Another



notable report for which he was responsible was that on the proposed purchase of The Times and The Sunday Times by Thomson Newspapers, which he found not to be against the public interest.

Roskill presided over the commission with intelligence, shrewdness, charm, wit, tact and sympathy. He pulled together the disparate qualities of the motley team governments of the day saw fit to provide him with — some remarkable individualists, others less remarkable, but all individualists. He proved first-class at running a team and was always highly popular with his staff. The measure of his success can be gauged by the fact it took the government to find his successor. Ministers started thinking about it in 1971 when Roskill

was already 69 and well into his second term. They eventually succeeded in 1975, much to Roskill's chagrin, since he felt he could well go on to 80 — and he was probably right.

Ashton Roskill was the eldest of four remarkable brothers. Stephen, the next in line, became one of our greatest naval historians; Oliver created his own firms and is a tycoon; Eustace is a Law Lord. Their father was John Roskill, KC, and their mother, Sybil, daughter of Ashton Dilke MP after whom Ashton was christened. Ashton Roskill went to Winchester and thence, with an open scholarship to Exeter College, Oxford, where he got a first in modern history. He then did the Bar exams, winning a certificate of honour from the

Council of Legal Education and was called to the Bar (Inner Temple) in 1925, entering the chambers of D. N. Pritt, KC.

But in 1931 there was a terrible family tragedy. A disastrous fire at the house next door in Montagu Square engulfed the family home. Sybil died in the fire and Roskill jumped from the parapet at the top of the house to save his life, landing on the iron railings 50 feet below. He was six months in hospital, terribly scarred on his body for life, with a right arm which could never again bowl or serve overarm and broken ankles which were the cause of the arthritis from which he later suffered so much.

But none of this suffering was evident to the casual observer. Roskill was possessed of a sunny temperament and seldom alluded to this family tragedy — just as he never spoke of his work in MI5 throughout the war at Wormwood Scrubs. Post-war he specialised more and more in Government work: he would have made a very good civil servant. He became the Referee for the determination of purchase tax valuation disputes and, later, for customs duty disputes and the Arbitrator under the Safeguarding of Industries Act, 1921. He took silk in 1949, was elected a bencher of the Inner Temple in 1958, had a flat there and became prominent in his Inn's affairs.

In 1960 began his long stint with the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. He was a part-time member until becoming chairman in 1965. He retired to his former gardeners' cottage in the Berkshire Downs in the grounds of his old country seat, always missing his great days at the commission. Two years ago he and his second wife, Phyl Burney, had to move into a nursing home where she sadly died last year.

He is survived by his son and daughter from his first marriage.

RYAN JARVIS



Ryan Jarvis, a member of the Newmarket training family, died on June 25 aged 77. He was born on November 19, 1913.

RYAN Jarvis sent out but one Classic winner. Front Row, who took the Irish 1,000 Guineas in 1968. However, success in Classic races is not the sole touchstone of training ability. Another is the gift for improving ordinary handicappers so they not only win but continue in form for a long period. In this, Jarvis can be judged, in equine terms, an alchemist, but with the difference that he succeeded in transforming base metal into gold.

In 1976, Jarvis produced the five-year-old Royal Match in April to win the Liverpool Spring Cup. The gelding was still campaigning nearly six months later. He had won seven, including the Beesborough Stakes at Royal Ascot and the Jubilee at Kempton, and was never out of the first four in a dozen

outings. The following season Jarvis performed a similar feat with another five year old, Dred Scott.

William Joseph Ryan Jarvis was born in Newmarket, the son of William Rose Jarvis. His father, both grandfathers, and four uncles (Basil and Sir Jack Jarvis; Frank and Fred Butters) were all notable trainers, so there was a dynastic imperative in Jarvis in-

evitably following their example. This he did in 1936.

During the war, he served as a captain in the Grenadier Guards, then resumed training at Newmarket. In 1950 he moved to Phantom House, the historic stable renowned for Gladiateur, the French-bred-and-owned Triple Crown winner of 1865 and so-called "Avenger of Waterloo". Here, Jarvis's career blossomed.

Among his other best horses were Lomond (Princess of Wales's Stakes and Ebor Handicap), Smokey Eyes (Stewards Cup), Even Say (Northumberland Plate), Quair (Lincoln Handicap), Absalom (Vernons Sprint Cup and Diadem Stakes), the filly Constantine and Cardington King, fourth in the 1955 Derby, all but one of whose eight victories between 1954 and 1957 were achieved at Newmarket.

Jarvis retired at the end of the 1979 season. He was predeceased by his wife, Jean, and a daughter, Jane.

herself daughter of the Tadcaster trainer Tom Hall and niece of Sam Hall, who trained at Middleham. She had been an important factor in Jarvis's success, with a deep knowledge of the form book which had a vital bearing on entries. Meanwhile, at Phantom House, their son William has been carrying on family tradition with great success since 1985.

Jarvis, on first acquaintance, might have appeared brusque of manner with a successful determination to keep stable secrets safe in an older Newmarket tradition. In reality, this masked a genial character with a sharp sense of humour. He will be much missed not only in Newmarket but in other sporting fields. Not only was he at Royal Ascot on June 19, but his enthusiasm for cricket took him to Lord's for every day of the Test.

He leaves a son, William, and a daughter, Jane.

PIERRE JAMET

Pierre Jamet, harpist and teacher, died at his home at Gargilesse in the Indre, on June 17 aged 98. He was born on April 21, 1893.

From 1936 to 1959 he was solo harpist at the Paris Opéra and from 1948 to 1963 he was professor of harp at the Paris Conservatoire. His students remember his timeless singing, and his gritty, scolding voice cajoling them to "chercher la sonorité" and "créer le son" in their hands. Having been obliged to take apart and analyse the technique, he was an extraordinary teacher. He turned the disadvantages of a bony hand and long, thin fingers into a positive advantage, bending the fingers at the proximal joint, keeping the distal joint straight, and articulating deep into the palm of the hand. Under the strings were put, under an oblique pressure, their release could be finely controlled, and the detached sound which is the obvious nature of the harp, he sought and found a wonderful legato, and he could project a pianissimo which would reach the back of the auditorium. It was a technique ideally suited to the music of his contemporaries and to the Erard harp.

At the age of 70 he gave up teaching at the conservatoire and devoted himself in the first place to the International Association of Harpists and Friends of the Harp, which had come about as the result of his initiative at the first Israel Harp Contest in 1959, and then to organising his International Harp Academy and a summer festival at Gargilesse, the village in the valley of the Creuse to which he had retired.

In 1943, in occupied Paris, he had taken under his wing the young Pierre Boulez, and in celebration of Jamet's 90th birthday in 1983, Boulez brought the Ensemble Intercontemporain to Gargilesse, where they accompanied Pierre Jamet in a last performance of the Debussy Dances with which he had started his career.

For seven more years, Pierre Jamet continued his summer courses at Gargilesse. A presentation in his honour was made and a concert in homage was given at the World Harp Congress in Seville in July 1990.

He leaves two daughters, Françoise and Marie-Claire, Professor of Harp at the Paris Conservatoire and harpist with the Ensemble Intercontemporain.

PIERRE Jamet embodied the link between the 19th century and the 20th, between chromatic harp and pedal harp, and between Debussy and Boulez. His father, Henri Jamet, was a well-known painter and his mother, besides painting, also demonstrated pianos for the firm of Pleyel, whose director, Gustave Lyon, sponsored Pierre Jamet to study his recently launched chromatic harp — the instrument with two rows of crossed strings and no pedals which had been designed to supersede Erard's pedal harp, and for which, in 1904, Debussy had been commissioned to write his *Danse sacrée* and *Danse profane*. Debussy's Dances were destined to run like a connecting thread through Pierre Jamet's life.

The young chromatic harp player was heard at a conservatoire examination by Alphonse Hasselmans, professor for the Erard harp, who offered him free lessons provided he transferred to the pedal harp and to his conservatoire class. Thus it was that in 1912 he graduated with his Premier Prix, and almost immediately became attached to the orchestra of the Théâtre des Champs Elysées, where D. E. Ingebrecht was principal conductor.

In 1916, the soprano Rose Feraud introduced Pierre Jamet to Debussy, who wished to hear his *Sonate* for flute, viola and harp played on the pedal harp rather than on the chromatic harp for which it was conceived. When, a short while later, Rose Feraud was unable to take part in a concert, Debussy sent a telegram asking Pierre Jamet if he might accompany him five days later in a performance of his *Dances* which at that point were not in Jamet's repertoire. In 1922, on the departure of Marcel Grandjany for New York, Pierre Jamet joined the Quintette Instrumental de Paris. There was little repertoire for the combination of flute, harp and string trio, but before long they were playing specially written works by Roussel, Pigné, Jolivet, Vincent d'Indy and Jean Françaix. There was even a *Rapsodie Arabesque* by Cyril Scott. Jamet considered the quintet the greatest joy of his career. It became the Quintette Pierre Jamet in 1932. He recalled having toured Britain with the quintet in the 1947-

48 season armed with a word vocabulary, which consisted of the phrase "week and the days of week and the days of week, please".

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He leaves two daughters, Françoise and Marie-Claire, Professor of Harp at the Paris Conservatoire and harpist with the Ensemble Intercontemporain.

VISCOUNT ST DAVIDS

Mrs D. H. Marrell writes:

That much of our inland waterways still survives, giving countless pleasure to so many, is indisputably due to the tenacity of a handful of people, of whom Viscount St Davids (obituary June 13) was one, who recognised the value of the canal system and fought for its rescue. He was part of the founding group of the Inland Waterways Association and on its guiding body for many years. His many friends knew him by his rare qualities and special talents. He was never content to be

merely a figurehead, believing it essential to practise what he preached.

Some of his particular interests were unlikely ever to occupy the centre of the political stage; nevertheless he was a great authority on British waterways and on water transport. For much of his life he campaigned for both commercial and pleasure use of the system and for the restoration of derelict canals. Thirty years of unflinching enthusiasm to restore the beautiful Kennet and Avon Canal was rewarded by its reopening last year.

Church services tomorrow

Fifth Sunday after Trinity  
SANTYBURY CATHEDRAL 8.30 AM. Holy Communion. 10.30 AM. Holy Communion. 11.15 AM. Holy Communion. 12.15 PM. Holy Communion. 1.15 PM. Holy Communion. 2.15 PM. Holy Communion. 3.15 PM. Holy Communion. 4.15 PM. Holy Communion. 5.15 PM. Holy Communion. 6.15 PM. Holy Communion. 7.15 PM. Holy Communion. 8.15 PM. Holy Communion. 9.15 PM. Holy Communion. 10.15 PM. Holy Communion. 11.15 PM. Holy Communion. 12.15 AM. Holy Communion. 1.15 AM. Holy Communion. 2.15 AM. Holy Communion. 3.15 AM. Holy Communion. 4.15 AM. Holy Communion. 5.15 AM. Holy Communion. 6.15 AM. Holy Communion. 7.15 AM. Holy Communion. 8.15 AM. Holy Communion. 9.15 AM. Holy Communion. 10.15 AM. Holy Communion. 11.15 AM. Holy Communion. 12.15 PM. Holy Communion. 1.15 PM. Holy Communion. 2.15 PM. Holy Communion. 3.15 PM. Holy Communion. 4.15 PM. Holy Communion. 5.15 PM. Holy Communion. 6.15 PM. Holy Communion. 7.15 PM. Holy Communion. 8.15 PM. Holy Communion. 9.15 PM. Holy Communion. 10.15 PM. Holy Communion. 11.15 PM. 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Farmer's diary: Paul Heiney

## Horsing around with science

I READ that a team of Japanese scientists has set up camp in a secret location in southern England with a view to discovering the truth about crop circles, those mysterious flattenings of standing corn which leave regular, geometrical patterns. These are believed to be caused by either an inter-planetary form of communication, or a load of drunken young farmers having a long-running joke at our expense. The Japanese clearly take this seriously, for there are no less than 19 of them hiding in the corn waiting for something to happen.

I have to tell them that they are looking in the wrong place. While I was strolling through my field of oats the other day, I noticed patterns of which I had not been aware before. Those of a vivid imagination may insert sinister music at this point: those who are commercially minded might follow the example of the West Country farmer who, within hours of finding circles, had the farm open to the public and the T-shirts printed.

But before you start getting together a coach party, I ought to explain that our crop circles are not quite as spectacular as some. They are perfectly round, as good crop circles should be, but instead of being a hundred yards in diameter they are a mere couple of feet. In each circle the earth is bare and parched, but around the perimeter the corn is lush and in any other part of the field.

I could keep you in suspense but it would be unfair. Each of my crop circles marks the precise point at which the cart-horse paused to relieve himself when we were planting the corn. I assume the potency of horse urine is such that it has a poisonous effect on young seed, but as it spreads out from the original spot on which it was deposited, it becomes diluted and fertilising. Either way, it seems hardly worth spending a night huddling in the oats to find out. It is either aliens or horse piddle, and I know which explanation I believe.

If these eminent Japanese scientists really wanted to see one of the mysteries of the natural world they should have been here last week when my old friend the

marsh-man came to "chop art mangels". He is a retired farmworker aged 70, an old soldier, and boasts he "only grows one marrow a year, but that's big 'nough I keep me bike in". You have met him before in this column when he saved me from despair during the potato planting. This time his mission was to save the mangels from suffocation. Mangels seed is so vigorous it sends forth three or four plants from each seed planted: if allowed to grow in such an overcrowded state it becomes a crop of useless, spindly, delinquent roots instead of a satisfied community of stout mangels as big as footballs.

I doubt my friend has ever bothered to master any mechanical aid, but give him a simple hoe and he can make it sing. Like a fussy snooker player with his cue, he carries his own hoe and will refuse any other. He tunes it with a swift rasp of a file to give it an edge, and to ensure a grip he spits into the palms of his hands. Then the ballet starts.

He stands back a row or two from the one he is attacking and takes what may appear to be a casual swipe. It is carefully calculated. That single action removes half the unwanted plants. Then, with a twist and a nudge, he closes in, swipes again and miraculously manages to remove individual weeds and give the soil an invigorating stir without altering his grip or stance. Then he shuffles a pace down the row and repeats the action... swing, swipe, slash, stir, shuffle.

He does this for six consecutive days, rain or shine, sitting in the ditch to eat his cheese sandwiches and refusing all invitations to the shelter of the farmhouse kitchen. And at the end of it all you have a field of vigorous individual plants revelling in the freshly stirred soil and growing before your eyes. That's my sort of magic. But he's never going to be famous for it. No oriental delegation is going to try to unravel the secrets of his art.

Anyway, he and I have developed our own theory about these corn circles: they are the product of a giant, inter-galactic horse, and if it should relieve itself while inscrutable eyes are bonded to their binoculars, we can only say it is as much as they deserve.



David Winpenny reports on the enduring British fascination with the stone circle

A widely spaced, uneven circle of carved stones is slowly being put into place in the mine-scarred landscape of South Yorkshire. Tony Slater, a sculptor, is chiselling away at 16 stones to be placed on the boundaries of his native village of Silkstone, not far from Barnsley. Each one will be carved with reminders of local history, such as mining disasters or the raising of a local regiment in the first world war.

Everyone who lives within the village will be given an opportunity to help to choose the subjects to be carved on the stones.

This stone circle is only the latest in a series put over the years in areas of high unemployment. In the past wealthy landowners arranged to have imitation druidical circles built by the local unemployed. They may have been moved by the poverty they saw around them, but vanity was also a factor, for it was considered fashionable in the late 18th century to have your own "ancient" circle.

The antiquarians of the mid 17th century, such as John Aubrey, had studied stone circles — especially Stonehenge — in great detail. In 1649, Aubrey wrote a book claiming that the ancient Britons had druid priests and that Stonehenge was one of their temples.

He struck a rich vein. Once the link was made, future writers had only to embellish it. Not just historians but poets such as Milton and Blake all contributed to the growing Romantic idea of a cult of bearded, sun-worshipping ancients.

The fantasy was taken up with enthusiasm by those who wanted to be in the vanguard of architectural fashion. Tiring of their Gothic ruins and fenspar grotesques, some of them began to erect fake druidic circles on their estates, under the guise of charity.

One such philanthropist was William Danby, from Ilton, near Masham, in North Yorkshire. His circle (in fact, an oval), the Druids' Temple, is the largest of Britain's imitation Stonehenges. It was put up in the 1820s to relieve the predicament of unemployed lead miners, who were paid a shilling a day.

The circle might well have been designed by Robert Lugar, who worked at Danby's home, Swinton

Hall. The stones line a depression in the ground about 100ft long and 50ft wide. There are single standing stones and trilithons (two uprights with a cross member), and at the far end is a cave. The site is owned by the Forestry Commission, which has opened it to the public and provided signs indicating "Druids Car Park" and "Druids Picnic Site".

Major West, of The Quinta, a house near Weston Rhyn in Shropshire, also had local unemployed men build a stone circle, in about 1830. Perhaps out of respect for his undernourished labourers, the stones are painfully thin, and form a circle about 40ft across. The single stones are up to 15ft tall, and there are some emaciated trilithons.

One of the first circles seems to have been made in the early 18th century by Richard Richardson at Bierley Hall, near Bradford, in Yorkshire. His father was a noted botanist, friend of the naturalist and collector Hans Sloane, and correspondent of Linnaeus. In his time Bierley had the best collection of "curious plants" in the north of England.

Richardson was more interested in landscape gardening. He dammed a stream on the estate to create a chain of lakes, and beside one he planned a complete mock-druid circle, together with a number of outlying standing stones. Today, with the hall demolished and the site overgrown, the circle is difficult to distinguish from the tangle of bushes which smother it.

The circle at Temple Combe, just outside Henley-on-Thames, is genuinely prehistoric. It began life in Jersey, from where it was removed in 1785 and transported to Henley two years later as a retirement gift to General Conway, who had been governor of the island.

A rhymed inscription, in French, speaks of the human sacrifices which were (supposedly) offered there, and expresses the hope that the stones will stand as a fitting monument to Conway's greatness. A stone passage about five yards long leads the visitor to the circle itself, originally 21ft in diameter but here enlarged, no doubt for aesthetic purposes, to 27ft.

Perhaps a dozen years after the



The Druids' Temple



A chip off the new block: the sculptor Tony Slater at work on one of the 16 stones at Silkstone

### Country events

#### THIS WEEKEND

Opera in the hall: The Panto Opera Company and Orchestra perform Verdi's *Falstaff* in the 18th century mansion. Take a picnic. Black tie. Wimpole Hall, Arrington, Royston, Hertfordshire. Tomorrow from 6.30pm. Tickets £15-£20 (0223 207257).

Medieval tournament: The Plantagenet Society does battle. Also, medieval dance, archery and children's tournament. Old Sarum, near Salisbury. Wills. Today, tomorrow from 1pm. £3, children £1. Further information: 0722 333398.

RPO at Petworth: Tonight, a dance and music gala. Tomorrow, an opera spectacular and fireworks. Take rugs, chairs, picnic. Petworth Park, Sussex. Gates open 6.30pm, concerts from 8pm. Tonight £8, tomorrow £10. Book on 0798 43148.

Filly Edwardian festival: Nine-day seaside festival opens tomorrow with a grand procession of floats, and a costumed Edwardian craft market. Many events throughout the week, including exhibitions, competitions, quizzes and treasure hunts. The festival ends with a concert and fireworks display. Filly, North Yorks. Tomorrow July 7. Information: 0723 516142.

Excavate Street: At the excavated centre of the Roman city, the Re-enactment Group demonstrates drill and tactics of the latter part of the first century. Ryegate, east of St Albans, Herts. Today, tomorrow, at 1pm, 2pm, 4pm. £3, children £1.

Windsor festival: Nine-day festival opens with hot air balloons and a costumed street parade. Windsor, Windsor. Today, July 7. Further information: 0606 6499.

JUDY FROSHAUGH

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#### 4 NIGHTS

Forte Crest, Aylesbury. Whitley Hall, Banbury. The Dudley, Brighton and Hove. Palace Hotel, Buxton. The Ivy Bush Hotel, Carmarthen. Peveril of the Peak, Dovedale/Ashbourne. Forte Crest, Glasgow Airport. The Saracen's Head, Great Dunmow/Sarnstead. The Crown, Harrogate. Forte Crest, Hull. Forte Crest, Liverpool. The Kensington Close, London. Larkfield Priory Hotel, Midsomer. Forte Crest, Manchester Airport. Forte Crest, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. The Talbot, Quindia. The Harwood Inn, Prestatne. Kippell's Head Hotel, Portsmouth. The Royal, Royston. Wye. The Grosvenor Hotel, Shaftesbury. The Polygon Hotel, Southampton. The Pindragon, Southsea. Bear of Rodborough, Stroud. Forte Crest, Swindon. The County, Taunton.

#### 3 NIGHTS

The Upper Reaches, Abingdon. The Sar Inn, Alfriston. The Francis, Bath. The Plough & Harrow, Birmingham. The Royal Norfolk Hotel, Bognor Regis. Forte Crest, Brighstone.

St Vincent Rocks Hotel, Bristol. Frimley Hall Hotel, Camberley. The Queen's, Cheltenham. The Dolphin and Anchor, Chichester. The George Hotel, Crawley. The Dart Marina Hotel, Daresbury. The Burford Bridge Hotel, Dorchester/Box Hill. Forte Crest, Evesham. The Bush Hotel, Farnham. Forte Crest, Glasgow. The Swan, Grasmere. The Majestic, Harrogate. The Green Dragon, Hereford. The Duke's Head, King's Lynn. Forte Crest, Lincoln. The Royal, Llangollen. Forte Crest, Heathrow. London. Hotel Russell, London. The Waldorf, London. Forte Crest St James', London. The Grand Hotel, Lytham St Annes. The New Bath Hotel, Macclesfield. Bath. The White Hart Royal, Moreton-in-Marsh. The Golden Lion, Northampton. The Royal George, Perth. Forte Crest, Plymouth. The Radnorshire Arms, Prestatne. The George, Rye. The Crown Hotel, Scarborough. Forte Crest, Southampton. The Saracen's Head, Southwell. The Alveston Manor, Stratford-upon-Avon. The Royal Hop Pole, Tewkesbury. The Grand Atlantic, Weston-super-Mare. Forte Crest, Winchester. The Crown, Woodbridge. The Manor Hotel, Yeovil.

#### 2 NIGHTS

The Berryside, Ascot. The Bath Spa Hotel, Bath. The Black Swan, Helmsley. The Westbury, London. The Comptess Angler, Marlow. The Randolph, Oxford. Ghyl Manor Hotel, Ruspae. The Imperial, Torquay. Leeming House Hotel, Ullswater. The Bedford, Windermere. The Old England, Windermere. The Bear Hotel, Woodstock.

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The sun does strange things to the British. This summer however there's one device to help us maintain our traditional reserve.

The new Freeland cordless phone from BT. There'll be no more undignified dashes from the garden when summoned by bells, for its 100 metre range means you're always in contact. And its nine number memory means you'll be able to read more of your novel and less of the phone book.

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All hotel bookings subject to availability with a limited number of rooms available at these promotional rates. All details correct at time of publication. Offer valid June 29th to September 1st with a final 5 night holiday starting August 28th. Price of £100 is per person, on a bed and breakfast basis for 5, 4, 3, or 2 consecutive nights, when sharing a twin/double room only. This offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. Offer only valid at hotels listed above and on bookings made by July 1st.

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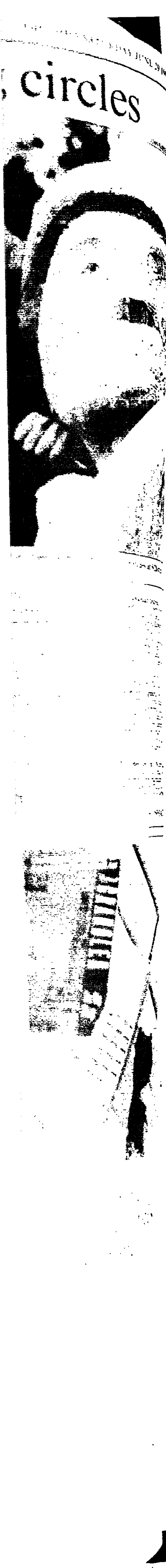
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## Sorting gentlemen from the boys

While developers cast covetous eyes over their Mayfair sites, the stuffy gentlemen's clubs are booming. What is the attraction?

The lack of Fallopian tubes is not the only thing that distinguishes those who belong to London's posher gentlemen's clubs from most members of the public.

Many people who pass the Fallopian tube test still find little to tempt them behind those swanky facades in Mayfair. But thousands of others, including many young men, are queuing to join places such as Boodle's and White's. The future of the Naval and Military club in Piccadilly, known as the In and Out, is in doubt because the freeholder wants to repossess the site. Its membership is booming.

What is the attraction? Drones club in London's Dover Street was a haven from women, aunts and problems for Bertie Wooster and fellow members such as Biscuit Biskerton, Catsmeat, Patter-Pirbright and Pongo Twisleton-Twisleton, who spent their evenings making for the bar like bison for a water hole. Behaviour was sometimes unconventional but always polite. There was the occasion, for instance, when "a crusty roll, whizzing like a meteor out of the unknown, shot past the Crumpet and the elderly relative whom he was entertaining to luncheon, and shattered itself against the wall. Noting that his guest had risen some 18 inches into the air, the Crumpet begged him not to give the thing another thought. 'Just someone being civil,' he explained."

Clearly, the mood of these places suits you or it does not. The biggest attraction, although it may seem a paradox, is that a gentlemen's club is the perfect place to do nothing, and to do it in company. You can relax. You can bech. You can wear a BHS suit.

By contrast, if you want to make the best of an evening in Groucho's, the most popular of

the new generation of mixed-sex, media-dominated London clubs, it helps to have a head that spins like a top if you want to keep up with who's coming and going.

But in the Athenaeum, nobody is going to be impressed to hear that Julia Roberts's agent in Los Angeles is really really interested in a film treatment that you devised last weekend. At the Carlton, nobody will suggest you still go on to a disco later. At the Travellers, nobody will sit down to dinner wearing a Katharine Hammett dinner jacket with "Say No To Trident" written on the back. The Garrick may be fashionable, but the waiters never say: "Hi, I'm George, I'll be your waiter this evening and I really recommend today's coriander and carrot angel hair pasta."

Nouvelle cuisine passed Pall Mall by, which is just as well. A florin-sized piece of spotted dick floating in a coulis of custard looks ridiculous. Talking business is banned. As long as you do not fancy the club barman, there is really nobody to flirt with.

Food and wine at London clubs are relatively cheap, bedrooms are a bargain compared with the Ritz around the corner, the bar is not crowded, and many clubs have reciprocal arrangements with similar clubs overseas that make a stay in Paris or Washington cheapish, elegant and a change from the tourist package.

As long as you do not fill in *The Times* crossword or practise yodelling when others are taking a siesta, you could find a club congenial to the sort of place, as one member described it, "where you very quickly make a great many acquaintances, and yet are never made to feel a need to invite them to your home."

JOE JOSEPH



Shining example: the threatened Naval and Military club, Piccadilly

THEFT from gardens and patios is increasing; even lawns are being stolen, say crime prevention officers at Chelsea police station, who were amazed by statistics gathered at their Chelsea flower show stand in May.

"About one in five of the people we asked had experienced garden theft, and we think it is a crime that affects the whole country," says PC Chris Offer, a crime prevention officer.

Garden tools, particularly power tools, statuary and shrubs, are the most frequent targets. Two people reported cases of entire newly laid lawns being taken overnight. A similar survey, carried out last year by the Consumers' Association, indicated that plants, containers and ornaments are also at risk. The association advises close scrutiny of house contents insurance policies to ensure that garden items are included. But, of course, there are several preventive measures which can be taken. Exterior lighting is recognised to be among the most effective. Chris Thornton, the

## Assets

### Light work in the garden

director of Outdoor Lighting Supplies, says: "Any form of outdoor lighting will help discourage intruders and vandals." He suggests that a dramatic visual effect can be created by placing light sources directly beneath plants, shrubs and trees, while underwater lighting can look attractive in clear pools.

Silhouette lighting allows the outline of a plant or object to be seen clearly against a wall or other vertical surface lit from below. "Moonlighting" is a gentler effect created by placing lights high above



Lighting deters thieves

the ground in trees to simulate the diffuse light of the moon filtering through the branches, and producing a dappled effect below.

Exterior lighting can be costly to keep on all night, although low-energy light bulbs last approximately eight times longer than standard 60 watt bulbs and help to reduce electricity costs by more than 75 per cent.

But it may be better to choose lights triggered by infra-red detectors. These work only at night and stay on for a few minutes before switching off automatically. Tests in a *Which?* magazine report recommended the Smith security light SL01, costing £50, the Micromark 7472, £55, and the Tasley Detectahood, £45, a 500 watt security system. Smith's latest sensor controlled SL021 has a 180-degree detection field, adjustable up to a distance of ten metres.

Since the Chelsea crime prevention survey indicated that front gardens are just as much at risk as secluded back gardens and sheds or garages, an approach light such as

Mazda's carriage-style lantern, £70, could be a solution. The light works with an infra-red detector, but can also be switched on permanently for all-night protection.

"With front gardens it is important to create a symbolic barrier - a low wall, hedge or gate - so a thief actually has to trespass to get inside," PC Offer says. "An unkempt garden will always attract thieves or vandals, and it is a good idea to keep clumps of bushes, where burglars can hide, to a minimum."

PC Offer has some other suggestions about avoiding garden theft: "If you plant straight from the garden centre, don't leave the labels on; these indicate the plants are new and not deeply rooted. "Plants can be held more firmly in place with a wooden label slower through the root balls. Another idea that has been suggested is to slice newly laid turf into small strips or squares so it is much harder and more time-consuming for thieves to pick up, rather than being able to roll up the lawn like a carpet."

Recording the serial numbers of power tools and keeping photographs of unusual or valuable statuary may also help.

NICOLE SWENGLEY

Suppliers: Outdoor Lighting Supplies, 352 Old York Road, London SW18 1SS (081-877 0144); Tasley, 221 Pontefract Lane, Cross Green Industrial Estate, Leeds LS9 0R2 (0532 350007); Smith Industries Environmental Controls, Aspley Way, Cricklewood, London NW2 7UR (081-450 8944); Micromark, 550 White Hart Lane, Tottenham, London N17 7RQ (081-881 2001).

### Events in town

#### THIS WEEKEND

Motor racing: More than 3,000 classic vehicles, including cars, buses, lorries. Norman Park, Hayes Lane, Bromley, Kent, Tomorrow 11am-5pm. £1. accompanied children free.

Wandsworth weekend: Fun fair, stalls, parachuting, heavy horses, and other displays. King George's Park, SW18. Today, tomorrow, from noon.

Dance and mime festival: Wide range of dance displays, from ballet to break dancing. Covent Garden Piazza, WC2. Today, tomorrow from noon. Free.

Alwicks fair: Colourful re-enactment of a fair dating back to the Middle Ages. This weekend, costumed craft mar-

ket, "trials" with pillory and duckings, carnival parade tomorrow afternoon. Alwicks, Northumberland. Tomorrow-July 6.

Chichester festival: Two-week festival of the arts. Chichester, West Sussex. Tomorrow-July 16. Further information: 0243 785718.

Punch & Judy festival: Puppeteers from all over Britain. The Pier, Southend-on-Sea. Essex. Today, tomorrow.

#### NEXT WEEK

Carnival with the animals: Organised by Capital Radio and the Royal College of Arts, featuring all kinds of music, from live bands to classical. London Zoo, Regent's Park. NW1. Wed. £10, children £5. Further information: 071-379 1066.

JUDY FROSHAUG



Reach for the sky: junior Australian Rules football players train in north London, one of four areas in Britain running pilot schemes in what one 16-year-old calls "legalised violence"

If I want," said the man with the anorak worn over his soaking-wet, Seventies-style, tight-fitting, sleeveless jersey and small shorts, "is for you to play really hard in this last quarter." The 21 other players stood round him, breathing loudly and adding periodic roars of agreement. The team's supporters stood in a circle round them, straining to catch the discourse. "We're fitter than them and we're only a few points behind," the captain said. "OK, a couple of the guys are injured - and I've dislocated my shoulder - but all I want to say is, play really hard in this last quarter."

Substitute "No" for "Australian" in the phrase Australian Rules Football and you have most people's idea of the game. Aussie Rules, or footy as it is familiarly known, is not a game for the timid sportsman. If you have dislocated your shoulder it is just about permissible to come off - only 18 of the 22 players in a team are allowed on the field at one time in any case. But it is no excuse for forgoing your inspirational three-quarter-time team talk.

Many Australians believe that the game was developed in the goldfields of Victoria, and certainly Gaelic football is the game it most resembles. Thomas Wentworth Wills, the man credited with originating the game, had worked in the goldfields, but it seems he initiated footy during the 1850s as a relatively decorous winter sport to keep cricketers fit.

## Footy evangelists convert heathens

Callum Murray considers the appeal of spending Sundays in a tight sweater and short shorts

In Australia it is still played in winter on oval pitches that double as cricket grounds in summer. In Britain, it is difficult to imagine cricket clubs allowing 36 studded players to tumble about their wickets every winter weekend - and, in any case, this would put the game in direct competition with soccer and rugby. So it has become a summer sport here, often played over two adjacent rugby pitches. We now have ten Aussie Rules clubs in this country, mostly based in and around London, but also in Leicester, Brighton and Bristol.

The British Australian Rules Football League (BARFL), formed in 1989, is attempting to introduce footy into British schools. So is there any chance that this exercise in what one enthusiastic 16-year-old calls "legalised violence" will catch on?

"People here see it as a rough-house," admits Paul Roberts, an Australian and the general manager of the BARFL. "So how can we expect parents to put their kids in for it?" The question is rhetori-

cal. Mr Roberts does expect parents to put their kids in for it, and by affiliating chosen schools with their local clubs he has ensured the parents' response.

On a Friday night at the North London Lions' ground in Hendon, a group of local 16-year-olds is being trained in footy "skills". In Australia, this emphasis on skills begins at an early age, according to Simon Eastwood, the Lions' Australian team manager. "We have the four Rs: reading, writing, arithmetic and running."

Those puzzled by the relationship between skill and Aussie Rules should watch the game as played in Australia, being televised on Saturday mornings. It

quickly becomes clear that accurate, powerful handballing and kicking ("marking") are at least as important as all-in wrestling ability.

One 16-year-old, Mark Dymann, says he was initially encouraged to come to the training sessions by one of his teachers, who is Australian. "It looked a good laugh on the TV," he says, "and when I got here I liked the geezers."

It is impossible not to be impressed by these "geezers", who are attempting, unpaid, to promote the game in this country. Inevitably, much of the coaching and organisation work is done by expatriate Australians, many of whom see themselves as footy evangelists in heathen territory. There is a rule that at least half the players in league teams here must be non-Australians. This gives the clubs an added incentive to develop training programmes for local youngsters - and the dearth of traditional, organised team sports in state schools means there is little competition for their attention.

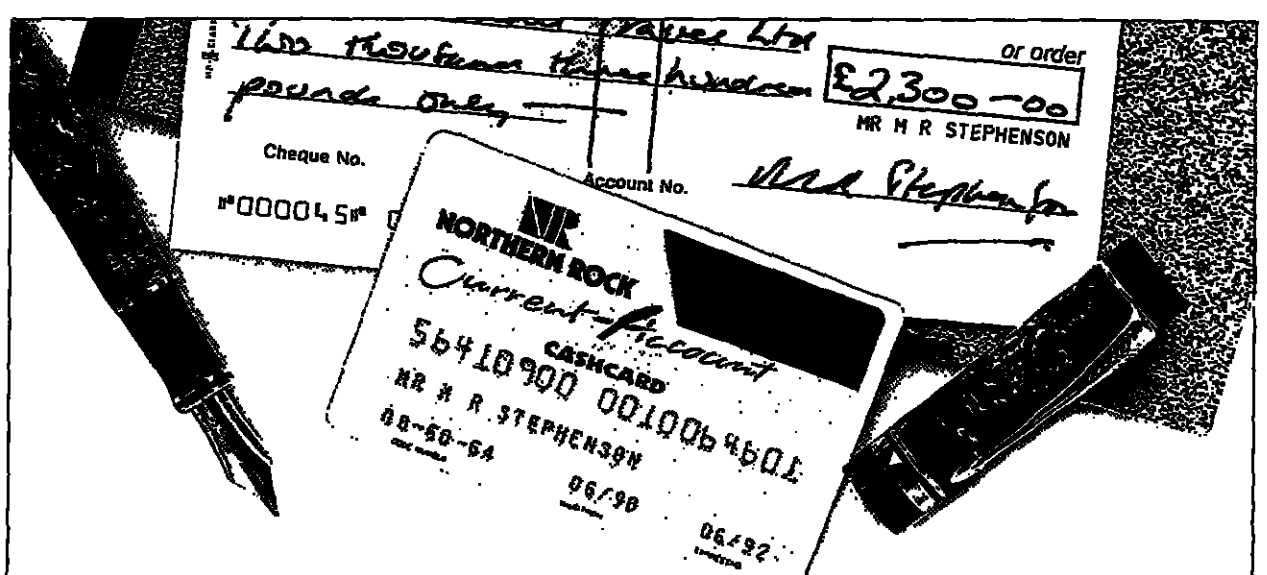
Pilot schemes for junior football

have started in four areas - north London, Oxford, Lea Valley (Hertfordshire/Essex) and Thames Ditton (southwest London) - and the BARFL insists on qualified PE instructors being present, so that parents can feel confident their children are being looked after.

After about two-and-a-half hours of play (even the rules about a footy match's duration are fluid), the game in the rain between the Wandsworth Demons and the Earls Court Roos ended in a win for the Roos, a reversal of last year's grand final result. In the pub afterwards, the Demons' captain, arm in a sling, stood on a chair to make a speech and present prizes to the best Australian afield, and to "a guy who we call the number one Pom". The prize for the keenest Pom, had there been one, would surely have gone to Andrew Markham, one of the umpires, who hitches over-night from Scunthorpe each weekend to officiate at Sunday matches.

There are 402 registered players in the league, and by next season the BARFL expects to have more than 600. It could probably double its number overnight if it could only persuade the parent body, the Australian Football League, to abandon its terrible kit. "We all look like we've grown out of our clothes," one Pom says. "I don't mind the shirts so much, but I'm not wearing those shorts. I'll stick to rugby shorts."

British Australian Rules Football League, 605 Pinner Road, Pinner, Middlesex HA5 5RT (081-429 3878).



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SPOLETO FESTIVAL

# Sounds of paint drying

Watching the European premiere of Gian-Carlo Menotti's 1986 opera *Goya*, which opened the 1991 Spoleto Festival this week, one was reminded of Dr Johnson's axiom that a work written without much effort is seldom read with much pleasure. But to give the brightly Italian-American his due, the remarkable thing is not that he can compose operas well, so much as that he can compose them at all. After all, the late Romantic composers that Menotti's work so closely emulates hardly spent their pensionable years jetting between continents, running festivals and launching other people's careers.

Menotti shrugs off jibes about being "the poor man's Puccini" by observing that "anything is better than being a rich man's Boulez". Judged according to the composer's lights, then, *Goya* was a resounding success. The Teatro Nuovo was packed with Italian VIPs and devoted foreign fans, who applauded everything. The young Puerto Rican tenor Cesar Hernandez bore the difficult mantle of interpreting the role written expressly for, and on the suggestion of, Placido Domingo, who sang it at the Washington DC world premiere. Hernandez made a success even of the taxing vocal writing in the last act, which Domingo had asked to have deleted, and Menotti has now written back in.

Mezzo-soprano Suzanna Guzman, looking rather Cher-like, was the promiscuous but



Delivered: the King of Spain in Menotti's *Goya*

haughty, scheming Duchess of Alba, constantly trumping the Queen of Spain (soprano Penelope Daner). The youthful (and barefoot) conductor Steven Mercurio teased an applause-worthy interpretation by the even younger all-American-trained Spoleto Festival Orchestra out of the pedestrian, strings-heavy score. But it was a pity that he did not make more of the odd snatch of dramatic oboe and flute that underscored some of the almost Hitchcockian moments on stage.

The opera's greatest intrinsic drawback is that it relies too heavily on an anachronistic orchestration to accompany such a patently late 20th century psychological reading of the libretto's theme: *Goya's* inner struggle against the demons of guilt, and remorse at his own cowardice and inability to react to circumstances. But where the music failed, there were still the excellent direction (also by Menotti) and visual effects to fall back on, particularly the tableaux vivants reconstructions of Goya's most well-known paintings in his Act III death scene.

Unfortunately, the otherwise effective moment of pathos in Act II when Goya first experiences the symptoms of deafness at a Royal reception (the courtier's mouth mutely to a solo flute) was rather spoilt when the King of Spain's satin breeches fell down, to general hilarity of all those present.

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## Lynne Truss wraps up well for a television week dominated by soggy courts and saintly forbearance

Huddled under the big broody, blanket tucked around my legs and a cup of cheerless thermos-flask tea in my hand, I gazed in the sandwich box for the remote control and tried BBC 1. Ho hum. It was Thursday afternoon, and as thunder grumbled monotonously over a doom-dark south London, my efforts to replicate the ambience of Wimbledon 1991 in my own living room were beginning to pay off.

I wasn't actually wet, of course, but I was distinctly dejected. I had not moved from my position on the sofa in four days; I had seen a total of about six hours of good tennis, and I was beginning to feel light-headed. "As flies to wanton boys, we are to the gods," I reflected stily, as the latest squall of rain pelted the windows. The gods give us Edberg, but they take Edberg away. They tease us with long-awaited glimpses of Agassi's renowned midriff, and then they say, "Whoops. Sorry guys. Raining again".

For many people, I suspect, Desmond Lynam's celebrated calm has this week been like an anchor chain in a great swelling sea of despair. Such a fine example of grace under pressure it is rarely one's privilege to see. When, in the evening Today at Wimbledon (BBC 1), came close to technicality, Lynam presented hour after hour of wet, bleak, canvas-covered nothing-doing with all the equanimity of the saint who secretly blesses the instrument of his own martyrdom. "Ah well, what shall we do now? Look at some people sheltering from the rain, I suppose..."

On Thursday, there was a moment when BBC 2 suddenly interrupted a recorded match for a brief unscripted shot of Lynam in his little studio. But was he caught off-guard? Did we see him gripping his wrist like Michael Palin in *G.B.H.*, saying "Calm, calm, calm", or hammering his fists on the rain-spattered window, sobbing "Will this infernal drip, drip, drip never cease?" No. He was sitting forward and eerily motionless, like patience on a monument - a kind of minimalist living statue entitled *Man, Jacket, Moustache*. (All this gravity, on the other hand, did not accord very well with his chirpy little commercials for *Radio Times*.

"Have you got Wimbledon fever yet?" he asked repeatedly, when the nation was consistently groaning in reply. "No, you pillock, of course we haven't. And nor have you." The main problem with all this rain is not the backlog of matches,

# Brollies, volleys and aces from Des



nor the despair of a wasted week camped in front of the telly. It is that, even at this moment, a producer somewhere in the BBC is compiling one of those very little montages of Wimbledon highlights which will show what good sports we all are, and what plucky optimists for expecting to hold a tennis tournament with a climate like this British summer's.

I can see it now: rain pouring off roofs; a family of ducks skid-landing on the sodden Centre Court; spectators with comical bin-bags over their heads; Alan Mills (the permanently worried referee) watching the lowering skies with a deeply ironic "Oh thank you very much God"

expression on his face. For the soundtrack they will consider "The day that the rains came down", "Raining in my heart" and "It might as well rain until September", but settle for "Raindrops keep falling on my head". I can't explain my reasons, but I think this man should be stopped.

Not every week does a television programme offer a concept useful to everyday life, but Monday's *Horizon* (BBC 2) was one such. A social anthropologist (equipped with big specs and a mountain bike) has been pedalling purposefully around Wales for two

years, investigating the useful questions "If people know that fatty foods lead to heart disease, why do they still eat them? Do we all partake of a collective death-wish?" "Good questions," I said, approvingly waving a fork loaded with chips. But his answer was even better. Yes, the public accepts the warnings from health educators. But they also know that bad diet is not always bad for you (there is generally an "Uncle Norman" in the background somewhere, who ate a daily sack of pork scratchings and lived to 93).

And they also know that bad diet is not the only thing that is bad for you. "People live," the anthropolo-

gist said, "in a complex landscape of relative risk."

These words rang in my ears. A complex landscape of relative risk. What he meant, I think, is that when people look around for things to worry about, they apply their own priorities. If they live slap-bang next to a nuclear power station, for example, the fatty-foods dilemma will not keep them awake at night - it is a mere hillock in the far distance, compared with an Ayers Rock blotting out the sun. Who can blame them if they sit inside a lead box in the living room, stuffing cream buns without a second thought?

Similarly, people who do not have jobs or money are unlikely to care much about the potential health consequences of bacon sandwiches. But if the poor are more likely than the rich to suffer heart attacks, he said, it is generally because of the way they live, not just the way they eat.

The anthropologist made a number of persuasive points, but I was worried that he had been dragged into a false logic by his two years listening to the dreary arguments people sometimes use when justifying their stupidity or laziness. "Give up smoking because of lung cancer," people say. "What's the point? I could be knocked down by a bus tomorrow." "Not blow smoke in your face because you believe in passive smoking? Pah, there's more risk from the Greenhouse Effect." "Not eat this chip because my arteries will clog up? Why, a meteorite could crash to earth on my house this very night."

The anthropologist objected to sweeping health education advice because it "blames the victim". That was fair enough. But surely he did not fall for the old "chip-fat versus meteorite" argument.

My own personal landscape of relative risk is dominated by two things equally - twin peaks, as you might say. There is the Bomb, of course; and also a secret terror of choking on fur-balls. Compared with these, the dangers of the chip and Maltiser are minor lumps. Compared with these, even the danger of seeing Wimbledon suspended indefinitely pales into insignificance.

This just goes to show that we are all different, of course. I would, for instance, hazard to guess that for Desmond Lynam, the fear of Wimbledon being cancelled looms considerably larger than the danger of choking on a fur ball.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

## Pacifist details

DIFFICULT as it is to imagine Britten's *War Requiem* not making an emotional impact, it is a work that undeniably gathers resonances in particular historical circumstances. The piece was originally intended to be given by Russian, English and German soloists as a symbol of postwar reconciliation at the 1962 consecration of Coventry Cathedral. A performance at last year's Proms with East German artists had a double resonance: the Wall had fallen, but war was already threatening in the Gulf.

Thursday's Festival Hall performance under Andre Previn had no special resonances. Was this perhaps why the audience was so thin? The occasion certainly lacked a dimension as a result. There was nothing that one could actually fault with the performance: it simply failed to etch itself into the memory as a spiritual experience.

Previn and the Royal Philharmonic did, on the other hand, succeed in alerting me to many details that I had missed on earlier occasions. For example, the menacing noises made by lower strings and percussion in the grotesque parody of Abraham's Sacrifice warn us of the savage outcome well before the soloists subvert the story.

Anthony Rolfe Johnson and Hakan Hagegard were both effective. Rolfe Johnson eloquently captured the plangent tone - at the same time angry and resigned - of Britten's setting of Owen's poetry. The American soprano Andrea Gruber, though less well known in this country, also made an excellent impression, notably with her full-blooded, impassioned outbursts in "Lacrimosa".

Combined forces from the Bach Choir and the Brighton Festival Chorus sang impressively, and the Trinity Boys' Choir seemed to be making their invisible contribution from somewhere deep in the bowels of the organ.

BARRY MILLINGTON

## Internal fight for the soul of Naples

VESUVIUS itself may not have erupted; but, if Eduardo de Filippo is to be believed, volcanic explosions hit the Naples area in the 1940s, shaking old beliefs and splattering the traditional ways with rocks no less destructive for being metaphorical. Perhaps it was simply the impact of the 20th century, a late arrival in southern Italy, or perhaps the experience of occupation and starvation. At all events, every de Filippo play we English have seen, from *Saturday, Sunday, Monday* on, has involved the threat of disintegration. The mortar is cracking; the family in particular is near collapse.

Never was this more obviously the case than in *Napoli Millionaria*, a play that surely comes from as deep in de Filippo's generous heart as anything he wrote. In 1942, when the first, lighter act is set, neither nazis, Italian fascists nor allied bombers can daunt the spirit of the Jovine family, precariously surviving in its gaunt, cracked tenement, with its heavy brown furniture and

kitsch replicas of the Virgin. Ian McKellen's shambling Gennaro may disapprove of the petty deals that his wife, Claire Higgins's Amalia, pulls off on the black market. But he still leaps into bed in a winding sheet when the law comes in search of the coffee hidden in the mattress, and remains immobile while bombs fall and the police crack jokes about Lazarus.

This is wonderfully funny, the most straightforwardly enjoyable scene in a production which, thanks to Richard Eyre's direction, displays an unEnglish volatility and emotional energy without ever giving us the feeling that roccoco waiters and waitresses are hurling around feelings like overcooked lasagne. But the rest of the play, though not without humour, is more sombre. Profit-seeking is no longer just a sign of resilience. The time is 1944, Naples is free, and citizens once reduced to eating cats now seem prepared to devour each other.

What does McKellen find when he returns after two

### THEATRE Napoli Millionaria Lyttelton

years as a slave labourer, a bent, mushroom-faced figure who incoherently babbles, weeps, chuckles, absently coughs up phlegm and generally gives one of his more striking performances? The boy pictures have ceded to pink wallpaper and broadened chairs. His elder daughter is pregnant by an American; his son is a thief. Claire Higgins, by now Cruella de Ville in purple dress, tends her would-be lover and her loat, giving screeches of rage and class

envy as she sends packing the civil servant she has fleeced of house and home.

The play gets a bit melodramatic here, and sentimental later. De Filippo's views are too obvious and open. "In the old Naples you felt we were in this together, we cared for each other," says the civil servant, pouring coals on Amalia's head by giving her the medicine that will save his daughter. "I've lost all desire to hurt," adds McKellen, remembering many an atrocity. "Let's not harm people." And both Higgins and her spiv suitor, Mark Strong's Errico, give signs of having imbibed his hard-won wisdom.

This clearly reflects de

Filippo's hope for his native city back in the Forties - and who dare call it wishful thinking? The cast's Merseyside accents, and the colloquialisms of Peter Tinniswood's translation, may sound better than spaghetti-house Italian; but they accentuate the differences between Naples and Liverpool, them and us.

Liverpool is not known for fierce, Neapolitan values. In the last war Liverpool was badly battered, but did not risk its soul, as Naples did. What finally makes de Filippo's play impressive is that it authentically comes from lower depths we here have never visited.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE



Free man: Ian McKellen giving a striking performance

## Doing full orbits with a didgeridoo

THE didgeridoo has yet to make its mark on contemporary dance music, but its appearance midway through Bass-O-Matic's performance won an enthusiastic round of applause. The Rolf Harris 12-inch re-mix may not be far away. Certainly the booming tones of the aboriginal instrument slotted easily into the sounds William Orbit creates for his band.

Two years ago, Orbit deserted his previous studio-bound existence to form Bass-O-Matic, and in 1990 the group was rewarded with a cult following and a hit single, "Fascinating Rhythm". Since then the line-up has changed, but the atmospheric dance sounds remain.

Bass-O-Matic may be William Orbit's creation, but on stage he fades into the background. He stands at his keyboard, nodding his head gently, rarely acknowledging his fellow musicians, let alone the audience. The rest of the group, though, are far from reticent.

Standing in the centre is Sindy, her figure framed by thin, twisting shafts of light. She sings over a throbbing electronic rumble which sometimes takes the form of a lilting rhythm, sometimes a more strident dance beat.

Her voice defies the determined rigour of the backing, swooping melodically over the top. Despite the risible song titles ("Attack of the 50ft

### Bass-O-Matic Waterfront, Norwich

Demon Drum" and "Funky Love Vibrations"), she performs with passionate seriousness.

Later her soul voice is joined by two rappers, Glory B and Divine. At one point, they seem to be playing in a street scene from *West Side Story*. The two men swap lines from opposite sides of the stage, bragging to each other and sharing gossip. But every so often their conversation is interrupted by Sindy's soulful chorus, extolling the pleasures of togetherness.

Orbit's own songs start as pared-down mixes; everything is understated. Melodies get alluded to; the audience is expected to catch its drift. The rhythm, too, begins as a deceptively simple pattern, and only subsequently is it embellished by a manic percussionist who adds dub-like accents as he strikes triangles, cymbals and assorted other devices.

According to pop's past conventions, Bass-O-Matic should not work. But somehow the soul passion, the boasting rappers and the electronic grumble all made splendid sense. Even the didgeridoo.

JOHN STREET

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**CHANNEL 4**

**John Mills)** and his wife  
(Ashcroft) who unburdens  
herself of some formidable

**12.00-12.30am News, Int 12.30**  
**Weather 12.33 Shipping**  
**Forecast**

**FREQUENCIES:** Radio 1: 1053kHz/265m; 1068kHz/275m; FM 97.5-99.8 Hz. Radio 2: 1215kHz/247m; FM 80-82 Hz. Radio 3: 94.8, Radio 4: 693kHz/433m; 808kHz/330m. Radio 5: 1515kHz/433m. Jazz FM 102.2. LBC: 1152kHz/281m; FM 93.7. Capital FM 104.1/194m; FM 95.8. GLR: 1458kHz/206m; FM 94.9; Melody FM 104.8.

Philharmonic under Edward Downes performs Prokofiev (Symphony No 5); Prokofiev (Symphony No 7, Op 131), incl 2.50 Interval Reading	performance of the composer's Piano Concerto in A minor, Op 17 12.00 News 12.05am Close
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**QUENCIES:** Radio 1: 1053kHz/285m; 1089kHz/275m; FM 87.5-99.8. Radio 2: 88-90.2. Radio 3: 1215kHz/247m; FM 80-92.4. Radio 4: 198kHz/7515m; FM 94.8. Radio 5: 693kHz/433m; 808kHz/330m. World Service: MW 1584kHz/194m; FM 55.8. GLR: 1458kHz/206m; FM 94.9. Melody FM 104.8.

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Roundup 12.00 World News 12.05am Words of Faith 12.10 Black Choice 12.15 A Jelly Show 1.00 Newadisk 2.00 News Summary 2.01 Play of the Week: Terra Nova 1.30 Play of the Week: The Life of Galileo 3.00 News Summary 3.30 Talent Issue Around the UK 4.00 World 4.05 News About Britain 4.15 From Our Own Correspondent 4.35 Write On... 4.45 and Features in German

Philharmonic under Edward Downes performs Prokofiev (Symphony No 5); Prokofiev (Symphony No 7, Op 131), incl 2.50 Interval Reading	performance of the composer's Piano Concerto in A minor, Op 17 12.00 News 12.05am Close
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# IRA bombers fail in attempt to kill cavalry bandmen

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

SCOTLAND Yard explosives experts were last night examining a 30lb IRA time bomb which failed to explode after being placed outside a London hall during a concert by the band of the Blues and Royals regiment of the Household Cavalry.

If the bomb had exploded it would have caused considerable death and destruction among more than 300 people at the concert. The bomb was twice the size of the device used at the Royal Marines barracks at Deal in 1989, when 11 servicemen died.

Appearing for witnesses, Commander George Churchill-Coleman, head of the Yard's anti-terrorist branch, said it was a "callous attack" and that the IRA was likely to

strike again. The bomb, he said, might have malfunctioned or the bomber may have been disturbed before he could prime the device.

The attack marks the return of IRA active service units to the mainland after a silence of more than four months. In 1982, four men and seven horses from the Blues and Royals were killed by a car bomb in Hyde Park.

In the latest attack the bomb was left against the wall at the rear of the Alfred Beck hall in Grande Road, Hayes, west London, on Thursday evening. It was discovered in a brown canvas bag yesterday morning, by a woman walking her dog.

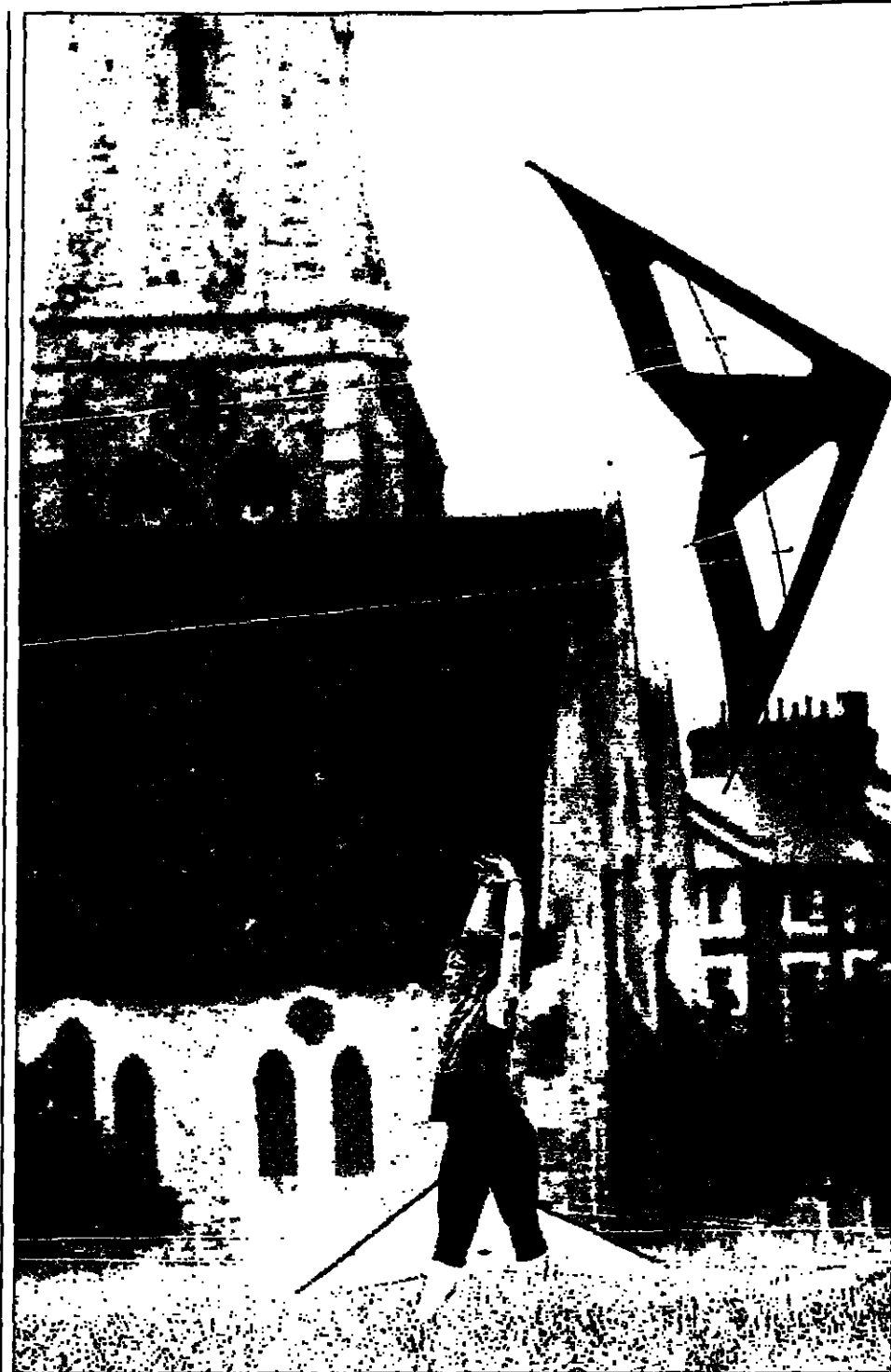
The attack is certain to raise fresh questions about the

amount of security given to military installations and public events, and the size of the bomb will be certain to give concern. Police say the concert was well publicised and the area was patrolled by police, but the hall is surrounded by public areas with car parks.

The 29-man band arrived at 4pm and the concert, with 290 tickets sold, began at 8pm. At 8.30pm police dealt with two boys playing at the rear of the hall, near where the bomb was left. The incident is not being connected to the bomb, but at that time there was no sign of the canvas bag.

The concert finished at about 11pm on Thursday. The bomb was found just before 9am yesterday. It had been left against the back wall of the hall and was obscured from casual view by a grass bank. The device was built with a short timer which may have been set to run for little more than an hour. The device was about 50ft from the stage, close to an air vent. The explosion would have hit dressing rooms and toilets behind and below the stage before spreading into the rest of the building.

The attack is cited by detectives as another example of the IRA's strategy of searching out soft military targets. Since the IRA began its latest rolling mainland campaign in 1988, active service units have struck at recruiting centres, barracks and individual soldiers, including senior commanders.



Reaching for the sky: Linda Blampied from Bristol limbers up before taking part in the Blackheath kite festival, which began in southeast London yesterday

## Sun shines on British Wimbledon hopes

By JOHN GOODBODY AND NICK TUTTALL

FOR the first time since the Wimbledon tennis championships began in 1877, there will be play on the middle Sunday. The tournament committee decided last night that there would be play tomorrow to try to make up the backlog of matches lost to rain.

Yesterday Britain had a series of successes at Wimbledon, when there were only two brief interruptions for rain.

Nick Brown beat Mark Keil of the United States 6-4, 7-5, 6-1 in his first victory in four appearances at Wimbledon. Mark Petchey from Essex defeated Jim Pugh of the United States 4-6, 4-6, 6-3, 8-6. In another first-round win, Jeremy Bates, Britain's No. 1, beat Jose Albur of Spain, 6-4, 6-4, 6-2.

William Hill the bookmakers yesterday stopped taking bets on June being a 30-day washout after weather forecasters predicted showers over the weekend and into next week. The firm has closed the book at 4-6 and opened a new one for July. He

said William Hill stood to lose £25,000 after taking bets of 100-1 against rain every day of the month. Betting on rain interrupting every day play at Wimbledon has also formed, from 100-1 to yesterday's odds of 8-1.

The Meteorological Office said computer models indicated that June was still on target to be the 51st wettest since records began in 1727.

Match reports, pages 39, 40



## EC sends mediators to Belgrade

Continued from page 1

to Belgrade for talks. Jacques Poos, the Luxembourg foreign minister, said that the mission was intended to stop bloodshed in a civil war that had already begun. They would try to persuade the government to recall its troops.

The EC supported the opening of emergency conciliation procedures, which were agreed last week by the 35 countries

of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE). The Yugoslav government has been asked formally to explain its actions. The summit issued a declaration, condemning both "unilateral acts" and the "use or threat of force".

Asked what he thought the aim of EC and CSCE intervention in Yugoslavia should be, John Major replied that "the

first prize is to hold the federation together". Given the recent dispute over the word "federal", this remark provoked giggles at the summit headquarters. A British official later said that Britain and the rest of the EC hoped that a "single political entity" could be preserved, while they realised that the existing constitution would have to be loosened.

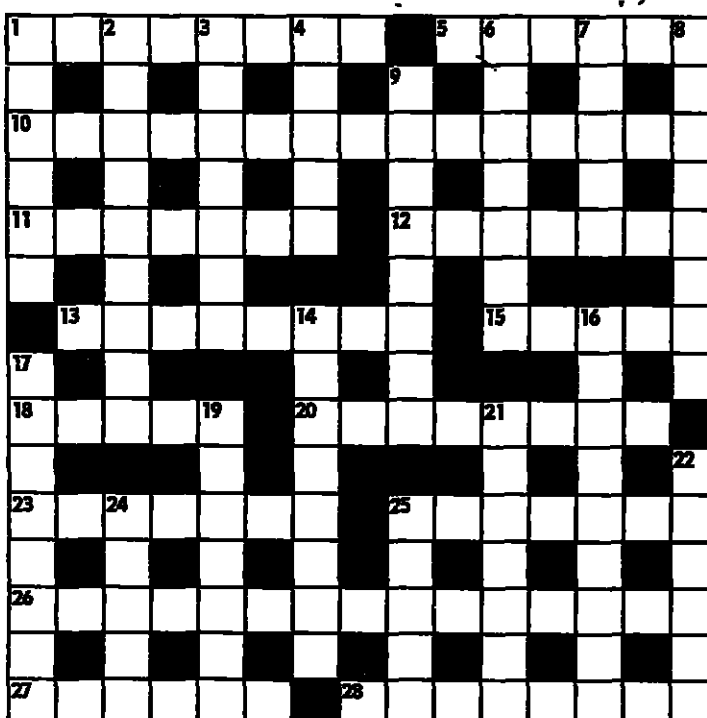
## MONDAY IN THE TIMES

The idea Mr Michael Chope, the roads minister, has dreamt up this time is so ludicrous that he could promote it by taking all his clothes off in the middle of Piccadilly Circus without rousing anything better than six lines at the tail-end of a column on page 14.

Bernard Levin denounces another victory for Nanny and a step backwards for freedom of choice.

Pins: Labour's Jack Straw claims an education standards commission would raise standards in state schools. But would it work? David Tyler reports in Times Education

## THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 18,645



- ACROSS**
- Left out of plastic explosive mixture (8).
  - Have insufficient base on a ladder (3,3).
  - Irregular board used in a piece of furniture (10,5).
  - Lacking heart in enterprise, making mischief (7).
  - Tavern for writers of a dinner set (7).
  - To receive a lady in company (4,1).
  - Decline of city in world revolution (5).
  - Further to the right, fractionally (5).
  - Cooked meals in sick quarters for the traveller (8).
  - About to start gambling at army race meeting (7).
  - Rugby Union field disposed of - that's terrible (7).
  - Kept by man with skill in household management (8,7).
  - Broken down, please pass (6).
  - Unlikely prospect of a thirst-quenching drink (4,4).
- DOWN**
- Ready to assist with a suggestion (6).
  - Coarse clothing once worn for fire-drill, perhaps (9).
  - Do this before blowing out fire (7).
  - Liquor producing expressions of surprise (5).
  - Expressed absolute emotional dependence initially (7).
  - A sign of political soldiers (5).
  - Solomon Grundy's life-span was chaotic - ask Dewey! (8).
  - High-minded undergraduate left his hat (8).
  - Vessel belonging to man in charge of Spain (8).
  - Foil an island flyer (9).
  - Bird meat? (8).
  - Trics again in engineers' examinations (7).
  - Anyone in the Army is helping (7).
  - Nimble captor of Black Prince (6).
  - Third-grade road between states (5).
  - Club for underworld boss? (5).

**Solution to Puzzle No 18,639**

MONASTIC G P F  
P R R A L S P I F  
S E M I A L E N A  
R E N N I S R A C K E T  
E H S B T A U  
S T Y M I E R E O R D E R  
T E P E D E  
C A N T A T I A C A R C A S S  
H I T S A E  
A R M C H A I R R A D O V  
D I A L E C T I C M  
E S T R A N G E E N N  
R S E R E L E G A T E

**Solution to Puzzle No 18,644**

C H A M B E R T I N O V I D  
O W R R E N T I I  
W I C H I T A E P H E S U S  
E H E D R I I C  
S K I N F L I N T S E T I O  
V E N T I N H V  
A S I A N G U A R A N T E E  
B O T T O M S U P F A C I E N  
O U C O  
R O W A N H I D E B O U N D  
I R T E E R A O  
S H E B E A R S H E L L E D  
T C R Z T E L G  
S A K E C A N D O V I L E

**PARKER DUOFOLD**

A prize of a superb Parker Duofold International Fountain Pen, with an 18 carat gold nib and fully guaranteed for the lifetime of the original owner will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address: \_\_\_\_\_

## WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

- SALANGANE**
- Silver and gold pasta
  - Majorcan pelota
  - Builder of edible nests
- PETCHARY**
- Illegal squatting
  - The grey king-bird
  - A coarse Indian mutton
- HYPRAL**
- Beyond the Urals
  - Under the tail
  - The rainy season
- CARLOCK**
- A Russian isinglass
  - An early muzzle-loader
  - The wild mustard

Answers on page 15

## AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE	731
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M-ways/roads M4-M1	733
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T.	734
M-ways/roads Dartford T-M25	735
M-ways/roads M25-A4	736
M25 London Orbital only	738

National	737
National motorways	738
West Country	739
Wales	740
Midlands	741
East Anglia	742
North-east England	743
North-west England	744
Scotland	745
Northern Ireland	746

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Kent, Surrey, Sussex	702*
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Devon & Cornwall	704*
Wilt, Glouce, Avon & Glos	705*
Berks, Bucks, Oxon	706*
Beds, Herts & Essex	707*
Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambs	708*
West Mid & Sh. Glam & Gwent	709*
Shrops, Herefords & Worcs	710*
Central Midlands	711*
East Midlands	712*
Lincs & Humberside	713*
Dyfed & Powys	714*
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715*
N W England	716*
W S Yorks & Dales	717*
N E England	718*
Cumbria & Lake District	719*
S W Scotland	720*
W Central Scotland	721*
Edin & Fife, Lothian & Borders	722*
E Central Scotland	723*
Grampian & E Highlands	724*
N W Scotland	725*
Cannaws, Orkney & Shetland	726*
N Ireland	727*

Weatherwatch is charged at 34p per minute (cheap rate) and 45p per minute at all other times.

\* includes pollen count

## Concise crossword, page 15

The solution given to 9 down in puzzle number 18,643 should have been "loud".

The winners of last Saturday's competition are: P. Mallet, Wittersham House, Wittersham, Kent; M. A. Crooks, Glegg Rd, Lechlwyd, Herts; M. J. D. Sutherland, Saxons Drive, Maidstone, Kent; D. W. Chellingsworth, Carlisle Rd, Chesham; J. M. Grover, High St, Robertsbridge, East Sussex.

## WEATHER

Most parts will start dry and bright with the best of the sunshine over central and eastern areas. Thickening cloud over southwest England and Northern Ireland, soon followed by rain, will spread in from the west reaching southwest Scotland, northwest and central England and Wales by the end of the afternoon and to the rest of the country during the evening. Outlook: rain in the north; brighter in the south.

## ABROAD

MIDDAY: Inland: 10-15; 15-20; 20-25; 25-30; 30-35; 35-40; 40-45; 45-50; 50-55; 55-60; 60-65; 65-70; 70-75; 75-80; 80-85; 85-90; 90-95; 95-100; 100-105; 105-110; 110-115; 115-120; 120-125; 125-130; 130-135; 135-140; 140-145; 145-150; 150-155; 155-160; 160-165; 165-170; 170-175; 175-180; 180-185; 185-190; 190-195; 195-200; 200-205; 205-210; 210-215; 215-220; 220-225; 225-230; 230-235; 235-240; 240-245; 245-250; 250-255; 255-260; 260-265; 265-270; 270-275; 275-280; 280-285; 285-290; 290-295; 295-300; 300-305; 305-310; 310-315; 315-320; 320-325; 325-330; 330-335; 335-340; 340-345; 345-350; 350-355; 355-360; 360-365; 365-370; 370-375; 375-380; 380-385; 385-390; 390-395; 395-400; 400-405; 405-410; 410-415; 415-420; 420-425; 425-430; 430-435; 435-440; 440-445; 445-450; 450-455; 455-460; 460-465; 465-470; 470-475; 475-480; 480-485; 485-490; 490-495; 495-500; 500-505; 505-510; 510-515; 515-520; 520-525; 525-530; 530-535; 535-540; 540-545; 545-550; 550-555; 555-560; 560-565; 565-570; 570-575; 575-580; 580-585; 585-590; 590-595; 595-600; 600-605; 605-610; 610-615; 615-620; 620-625; 625-630; 630-635; 635-640; 640-645; 645-650; 650-655; 655-660; 660-665; 665-670; 670-675; 675-680; 680-685; 685-690; 690-695; 695-700; 700-705; 705-710; 710-715; 715-720; 720-725; 725-730; 730-735; 735-740; 740-745; 745-750; 750-755; 755-760; 760-765; 765-770; 770-775; 775-780; 780-785; 785-790; 790-795; 795-800; 800-805; 805-810; 810-815; 815-820; 820-825; 825-830; 830-835; 835-840; 840-845; 845-850; 850-855; 855-860; 860-865; 865-870; 870-875; 875-880; 880-885; 885-890; 890-895; 895-900; 900-905; 905-910; 910-915; 915-920; 920-925; 925-930; 930-935; 935-940; 940-945; 945-950; 950-955; 955-960; 960-965; 965-970; 970-975; 975-980; 980-985; 985-990; 990-995; 995-1000; 1000-1005; 1005-1010; 1010-1015; 1015-1020; 1020-1025; 1025-1030; 1030-1035; 1035-1040; 1040-1045; 1045-1050; 1050-1055; 1055-1060; 1060-1065; 1065-1070; 1070-1075; 1075-1080; 1080-1085; 1085-1090; 1090-1095; 1095-1100; 1100-1105; 1105-1110; 1110-1115; 1115-1120; 1120-1125; 1125-1130; 1130-1135; 1135-1140; 1140-1145; 1145-1150; 1150-1155; 1155-1160; 1160-1165; 1165-1170; 1170-1175; 1175-1180; 1180-1185; 1185-1190; 1190-1195; 1195-1200; 1200-1205; 1205-1210; 1210-1215; 1215-1220; 1220-1225; 1225-1230; 1230-1235; 1235-1240; 1240-1245; 1245-1250; 1250-1255; 1255-1260; 1260-1265; 1265-1270; 1270-1275; 1275-1280; 1280-1285; 1285-1290; 1290-1295; 1295-1300; 1300-1305; 1305-1310; 1310-1315; 1315-1320; 1320-1325; 1325-1330; 1330-1335; 1335-1340; 1340-1345; 1345-1350; 1350-1355; 1355-1360; 1360-1365; 1365-1370; 1370-1375; 1375-1380; 1380-1385; 1385-1390; 1390-1395; 1395-1400; 1400-1405; 1405-1410; 1410-1415; 1415-1420; 1420-1425; 1425-1430; 1430-1435; 1435-1440; 1440-1445; 1445-1450; 1450-1455; 1455-1460; 1460-1465; 1465-1470; 1470-1475; 1475-1480; 1480-1485; 1485-1490; 1490-1495; 1495-1500; 1500-1505; 1505-1510; 1510-1515; 1515-1520; 1520-1525; 1525-1530; 1530-1535; 1535-1540; 1540-1545; 1545-1550; 1550-1555; 1555-1560; 1560-1565; 1565-1570; 1570-1575; 1575-1580; 1580-1585; 1585-1590; 1590-1595; 1595-1600; 1600-1605; 1605-1610; 1610-1615; 1615-1620; 1620-1625; 1625-1630; 1630-1635; 1635-1640; 1640-1645; 1645-1650; 1650-1655; 1655-1660; 1660-1665; 1665-1670; 1670-1675; 1675-1680; 1680-1685; 1685-1690; 1690-1695; 1695-1700; 1700-1705; 1705-1710; 1710-1715; 1715-1720; 1720-1725; 1725-1730; 1730-1735; 1735-1740; 1740-1745; 1745-1750; 1750-1755; 1755-1760; 1760-1765; 1765-1770; 1770-1775; 1775-1780; 1780-1785; 1785-1790; 1790-1795; 1795-1800; 1800-1805; 1805-1810; 1810-1815; 1815-1820; 1820-1825; 1825-1830; 1830-1835; 1835-1840; 1840-1845; 1845-1850; 1850-1855; 1855-1860; 1860-1865; 1865-1870; 1870-1875; 1875-1880; 1880-1885; 1885-1890; 1890-1895; 1895-1900; 1900-1905; 1905-1910; 1910-1915; 1915-1920; 1920-1925; 1925-1930; 1930-1935; 1935-1940; 1940-1945; 1945-1950; 1950-1955; 1955-1960; 1960-1965; 1965-1970; 1970-1975; 1975-1980; 1980-1985; 1985-1990; 1990-1995; 1995-2000; 2000-2005; 2005-2010; 2010-2015; 2015-2020; 2020-2025; 2025-2030; 2030-2035; 2035-2040; 2040-2045; 2045-2050; 2050-2055; 2055-2060; 2060-2065; 2065-2070; 2070-2075; 2075-2080; 2080-2085; 2085-2090; 2090-2095; 2095-2100; 2100-2105; 2105-2110; 2110-2115; 2115-2120; 2120-2125; 2125-2130; 2130-2135; 2135-2140; 2140-2145; 2145-2150; 2150-2155; 2155-2160; 2160-2165; 2165-2170; 2170-2175; 2175-2180; 2180-2185; 2185-2190; 2190-2195; 2195-2200; 2200-2205; 2205-2210; 2210-2215; 2215-2220; 2220-2225; 2225-2230; 2230-2235; 2235-2240; 2240-2245; 2245-2250; 2250-2255; 2255-2260; 2260-2265; 2265-2270; 2270-2275; 2275-2280; 2280-2285; 2285-2290; 2290-2295; 2295-2300; 2300-2305; 2305-2310; 2310-2315; 2315-2320; 2320-2325; 2325-2330; 2330-2335; 2335-2340; 2340-2345; 2345-2350; 2350-2355; 2355-2360; 2360-2365; 2365-2370; 2370-2375; 2375-2380; 2380-2385; 2385-2390; 2390-2395; 2395-2400; 2400-2405; 2405-2410; 2410-2415; 2415-2420; 2420-2425; 2425-2430; 2430-2435; 2435-2440; 2440-2445; 2445-2450; 2450-2455; 2455-2460; 2460-2465; 2465-2470; 2470-2475; 2475-2480; 2480-2485; 2485-2490; 2490-2495; 2495-2500; 2500-2505; 2505-2510; 2510-2515; 2515-2520; 2520-2525; 2525-2530; 2530-2535; 2535-2540; 2540-2545; 2545-2550; 2550-2555; 2555-2560; 2560-2565; 2565-2570; 2570-2575; 2575-2580; 2580-2585; 2585-2590; 2590-2595; 2595-2600; 2600-2605; 2605-2610; 2610-2615; 2615-2620; 2620-2625; 2625-2630; 2630-2635; 2635-2640; 2640-2645; 2645-2650; 2650-2655; 2655-2660; 2660-2665; 2665-2670; 2670-2675; 2675-2680; 2680-2685; 2685-2690; 2690-2695; 2695-2700; 2700-2705; 2705-2710; 2710-2715; 2715-2720; 2720-2725; 2725-2730; 2730-2735; 2735-2740; 2740-2745; 2745-2750; 2750-2755; 2755-2760; 2760-2765; 2765-2770; 2770-2775; 2775-2780; 2780-2785; 2785-2790; 2790-2795; 2795-2800; 2800-2805; 2805-2810; 2810-2815; 2815-2820; 2820-2825; 2825-2830; 2830-2835; 2835-2840; 2840-2845; 2845-2850; 2850-2855; 2855-2860; 2860-2865; 2865-2870; 2870-2875; 2875-2880; 2880-2885; 2885-2890; 2890-2895; 2895-2900; 2900-2905; 2905-2910; 2910-2915; 2915-2920; 2920-2925; 2925-2930; 2930-2935; 2935-2940; 2940-2945; 2945-2950; 2950-2955; 2955-2960; 2960-2965; 2965-2970; 2970-2975; 2975-2980; 2980-2985; 2985-2990; 2990-2995; 2995-3000; 3000-3005; 3005-3010; 3010-3015; 3015-3020; 3020-3025; 3025-3030; 3030-3035; 3035-3040; 3040-3045; 3045-3050; 3050-3055; 3055-3060; 3060-3065; 3065-3070; 3070-3075; 3075-3080;



SATURDAY JUNE 29 1991

## FBI arrested former Nissan UK finance director



By TONY HETHERINGTON

THE Inland Revenue investigation into suspected tax fraud at Nissan UK has taken a new twist with the discovery that tax officials may have obtained information from the Federal Bureau of Investigation about the role of the British company's former finance director in a case concerning the manipulation of share prices by others on Wall Street.

Frank Shannon, whose home at Hove, East Sussex, was raided by police and Inland Revenue investigators on Wednesday, was finance director of the Worthing car company until 1987. He then joined the board of TS Industries, an insurance company based in California.

In December 1988, Mr Shannon, a chartered accountant, was arrested by FBI agents engaged on an investigation into the manipulation of share prices by insiders. They had identified trading irregularities involving three stocks - Big O Tires, Flores de New Mexico and TS Industries. The companies were linked in that a market in their shares was made by Haas Securities, a New York brokerage firm.

Investigations had been informed that the president of Haas Securities, Stanley Aslanian, had conspired with business associates to generate an artificially high number of buy orders for stock in TS Industries. In theory, plenty of stock existed in public hands to meet any demand the market could generate. In fact, hundreds of thousands of shares were held in nominee names and would not be offered for sale.

The aim was to show that the market could not meet even a modest surge in buying. This would lead to a significant mark-up in the share price by dealers seeking to draw out potential sellers. Company records filed by TS Industries with the Securities & Exchange Commission show that Mr Shannon was beneficial owner of 169,942 shares in the company, less than 2 per cent of the company's outstanding stock. However, FBI records of Mr Shannon's arrest show that information supplied by an anonymous informant referred to as CW, meaning "co-operating witness," contradicted this.

### Shares suffer setback

SHARE prices in London fell sharply in the wake of a technical sell-off that coincided with the expiry of June futures and options, the end of the two-week trading account and the second quarter.

Prices also had to contend with a sharp fall in values in Frankfurt, where the government is threatening to impose taxes that could hurt foreign investors, and an opening 30-point fall on Wall Street.

The FT-SE 100 index closed 37.7 points down at 2,414.5, a fall on the account of 107.5. Markets, page 27

Dick Giordano, chairman of BOC, was the first businessman in Britain to be paid £1 million in a year. He tells Carol Leonard that he does not intend to return to his native America when he retires. Page 27

Speyhawk loss  
Shares in Speyhawk, the property company, fell 25p to 29p after the company said it would not pay a dividend on its preference shares. There is no interim dividend for ordinary shareholders. The company lost £10.7 million for the six months to end-March (1990 million profit). Times, page 27

Rent arrears  
Home owners in arrears on their mortgage could consider renting out their property and getting a tenant to cover their payments. Page 31

Court ruling  
Hundreds of people who invested millions of pounds with collapsed investment firms may not get compensation even if they invested after the December 18, 1986, cut-off date, after a ruling in the High Court. Page 33

Rights left  
Lloyds Bank cannot offer personal equity plan (Pep) holders the chance to take up and hold rights issues within a Pep because it does not have computer systems to handle the administration. Page 33

Your letters  
Is it cleared?



The listening bank does not always listen to what its customers want and sometimes prefers to keep their cleared balances a secret, while other banks appear to be using various delaying tactics to avoid quick payouts. Page 34

Fraud fight  
Barclaycard is fighting credit card thieves with a new scheme that tracks changes in customers' spending habits. Page 35

## Burton seeks £161m to tackle debts

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

BURTON Group surprised the market with a £161 million rights issue to help reduce its £380.3 million debt. Burton is cutting 1,600 jobs and forecasting losses of £166 million for the year to September 1.

Staff at the clothing retailer, which owns Top Shop, Top Man, Debenhams, Dorothy Perkins, Burton and Principles, were told of the cuts yesterday. Burton, which employs 35,000, is axing 1,350 jobs in the shops and 250 at head office.

The board, senior and middle management are to have their pay frozen until September 1992. Junior employees and hourly paid staff will have a pay freeze until March. Burton is closing 120 shops and transferring others after a review of its trading space. The cuts will save the group £22 million a year.

The shares, which were trading at 69p a week ago, fell 2p yesterday to 46p. The one-for-one rights issue at 30p means that Burton has had to take the unusual step of subdividing its 50p shares into 10p shares, as companies are not allowed to have rights issues at a price below their nominal value. The group plans a final dividend of 1p, which will not be covered.

The City viewed the rights issue as a rescue measure, although Burton said it had not been close to breaching any banking covenants. Laurence Cookin, chief executive, said the issue would strengthen the balance sheet and give the group the flexibility to avoid a fire sale of its property portfolio. The loss for the current year includes a £139 million write-down on the property portfolio, which is now valued at £80 million.

The call has been fully underwritten by SG Warburg and the sub-underwriting has been completed. The group is issuing 558.6 million new shares. The brokers to the issue are Cazenove and de Zoete & Bevan. The directors are taking up their rights in full. The subdivision of the shares will not lead to any change in net assets per share and has been effected by the creation of a deferred share at 40p, which will be written off, and a new ordinary share of 10p, which will have the same voting and dividend rights as the existing 50p shares.

The write-off on the property portfolio follows a £119.5 million extraordinary charge against the costs of withdrawing from property last year. The board has decided not to dispose of the British portfolio, but plans to sell the American properties as soon as possible.

Adjusting for the rights issue, group net assets would be £710 million. Net indebtedness is £219.3 million. Gearing is 30.9 per cent, but the interest payment of more than £20 million is not covered.

Like-for-like sales were down 9 per cent in the second half and the group is forecasting a profit before exceptional items of not less than £10 million for the year, which means that the businesses made an operating loss of about £30 million in the second half. Last year, the profit before exceptional items was £146 million. Exceptional costs for redundancy and group reorganisation will be £24.6 million and the extraordinary costs will be £152 million. The loss for the year will be £166.6 million, compared to a profit of £12.4 million in 1990. The dividend payment will cost £22 million.

A review of the group's accounting policies has led to an increase in the depreciation charge of approximately £4 million.

David James, the chairman, said Dan Air had turned the corner since the end of the Gulf war. "We came close to not surviving, but we got through and we are now recovering. Provided we can get the refinancing in place this company has a first-class future."

He told shareholders that because of the war, Dan Air's losses had continued in the first half of the year, although demand was now recovering. The airline has so far opened new routes from Gatwick to Amsterdam, Brussels and Malta. All three are operating profitably. Dan Air is now applying to run services to Copenhagen, Stockholm, Palma, Athens, Cairo and Istanbul.

Any buyer has a lot to live up to. The first lord of Roschaugh was Sir George Mackenzie, known as Bluidy Mackenzie after the treatment he meted out to Covenanters. There is also talk of a curse placed on the island by the Brahman Seer, burned to death in the sixteenth century for sorcery. Although Bidwells is vague on the terms of the curse, it only seems to be really bad news if you are a fisherman from Avoch, a local village.

Jan Crowther, property director of Eagle Star, said: "I have heard the story, but it's certainly not the reason why we are selling. The money realised will be invested elsewhere."

## One left to face the music

ONE could be forgiven for thinking that Laurence Cookin, chief executive of Burton Group, has ended up with the fuzzy end of the lollipop. Part of the four-man core team that presided over the retail group during the late Eighties' boom, he is the only one left to face the music during the recession (Gillian Bowditch writes).

Sir Ralph Halpern, former chairman and chief executive, Paul Plant, former joint group managing director, and Michael Wood, former finance director, left before March this year, with severance packages totalling £3.6 million in compensation and deferred bonuses, a figure that amounts to more than a third of the group's forecast profits before exceptional items.

Mr Cookin, however, gets his £375,000 salary frozen until September 1992 and has had a week of near-sleepless nights as the group put together its rescue rights issue package in the face of a plunging share price.

Burton had a generous performance-related incentive scheme for its directors, but that was scrapped last November when Sir Ralph departed. Burton's nine-man board received more than £14 million in fees, salaries and performance-related payments from 1987 to 1990, not including the compensation paid to Sir Ralph, Mr Plant and Mr Wood.

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## Buyer sought for 'cursed' Black Isle

By MATTHEW BOND

JUST five weeks after Guardian Royal Exchange rewrote the farmland market's record books by announcing plans to sell 22,500 acres of East Anglia for up to £38 million, another City institution has planted a "for sale" sign on a large tract of land.

Eagle Star, the insurance company, and one of the first financial institutions to invest in farming, is to sell its estate on Scotland's Black Isle, bringing to a close almost 40 years of ownership. For those that found GRE's asking price a little steep, the Eagle Star estates may come as a welcome alternative. For in the north of Scotland, you get a lot more land for your money. Bidwells, the Cambridge and Perth estate agent marketing the estates from next week, is asking £7.5 million, or £335 for each of the 14,500 acres.

There are, of course, important differences between the two holdings. While most of GRE's estates are being sold with vacant possession, Eagle Star's land is held in the traditional way, involving 52 tenanted farms and eight crofts. Such a diverse and complex system of tenure might deter some, but for anyone who dreams of becoming a Scots laird, it looks just the job.

Prospective buyers from south of the border may require some guidance. The Black Isle, for instance, is neither black nor an island. It is a peninsula to the north of Inverness, whose name derives from its dark and fertile soil, which makes the island one of the best farming areas in Scotland. City buyers could run into more confusion with the principal estate's name, Roschaugh, which has nothing to do with the eponymous property company and is pronounced with the second syllable sounding more like *loch* than



Through the fog: David James, who says the company has survived the crippling effects of the Gulf conflict

## Dan Air recovery plan will cost £40m

By NEIL BENNETT

DAVIES & Newman, the company that owns the airline Dan Air, is planning a £40 million emergency refinancing and is negotiating with its banks after it came close to collapse, its chairman said.

The company slumped to a loss of £38.7 million in 1990 after the slump in air traffic during the Gulf conflict.

David James, the chairman, said Dan Air had turned the corner since the end of the Gulf war. "We came close to not surviving, but we got through and we are now recovering. Provided we can get the refinancing in place this company has a first-class future."

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## Savings ratio falls to 9.8%

By ANATOLE KALETSKY, ECONOMICS EDITOR

BRITAIN'S personal savings ratio, which measures the amount consumers save as a proportion of their after-tax income, fell to 9.8 per cent in the first quarter from a revised 10.7 per cent in the last quarter of last year.

Some economists welcomed the decline as an indication that the consumer psychology might have started improving in the first quarter, but others noted that the buying spree at the end of March to beat the value-added tax rise had distorted the figures on consumption for the first quarter.

The Central Statistical Office said that consumer spending, unadjusted for special tax factors, rose 1.2 per cent in the first quarter from the preceding quarter, but allowing for spending ahead of April's VAT rise it was little changed. Real disposable income fell

0.6 per cent from the fourth quarter and was up by only 1.5 per cent from the first quarter of 1990. The quarterly fall in disposable income was the worst for six years.

Other government data showed the company sector's deficit rising to £7.8 billion in the first quarter from £6.7 billion in the fourth quarter and £6.9 billion a year earlier. Non-oil company gross trading profits, net of stock appreciation, fell 1.7 per cent in the first quarter from the fourth quarter and were down 5.8 per cent on the year.

America's commerce department reported an 0.2 per cent rise in the index of coincident indicators for May, the first increase since last June in the index, which is supposed to move up and down simultaneously with the economy as a whole.

## Tate wins Australian bid battle

By OUR CITY STAFF

TATE & Lyle has won control of Bundaberg Sugar in Queensland after a three-month bid battle. The British sweetener group has won acceptance for 67 per cent of the company and has declared the Aus\$325 million (£152 million) bid unconditional.

Tate had said it would withdraw the bid if it failed to obtain acceptances of more than 50 per cent by tomorrow. In the past two days Australian institutions and arbitrageurs rushed to accept the Aus\$4.10 a share offer. Tate is keeping its offer open until July 9. The group said it expects to win 100 per cent control.

Neil Shaw, the chairman, said: "I look forward to working with our new colleagues on Bundaberg's continuing development as an important participant in the Australian sugar industry."

## The New 1991 M&G Year Book

48 pages of facts, figures and performance statistics on lump sum and savings plan investment in M&G unit trusts managed by M&G Securities Limited (member of IMRO and Lautro) and the M&G PEP managed by M&G Financial Services Limited (member of IMRO).

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60 YEARS OF UNIT TRUSTS



## Cash call at Birkdale

BIRKDALE Group, the marketing, advertising and human resources consultancy group formerly called Brunning, wants to raise £2.72 million through a placing and open offer of 4.79 million new shares at 62p per share, on a five-for-twelve basis.

The company unveiled pre-tax losses of £1.53 million (£1.41 million loss) in the year to end-March. The loss per share was 15.6p (19.9p). Once again, there is no dividend.

### THE POUND

US dollar  
1.8185 (-0.0150)  
German mark  
2.9368 (+0.0079)  
Exchange index  
85.6 (-0.1)

### STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share  
1877.9 (-34.1)  
FT-SE 100  
2414.8 (-37.7)  
New York Dow Jones  
2892.44 (-42.49)  
Tokyo Nikkei Ave  
23290.96 (-252.07)

### INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base 11.14%  
3-month interbank 11.14%  
3-month eligible bills 10.25-10.75%  
US: Prime Rate 8.75%  
Federal Funds 5.75%  
3-month Treasury Bills 5.53-5.52%  
30-year bonds 9.11-9.06%

### CURRENCIES

London: Bank Base 11.14%  
New York: \$1.8185  
E: DM2.9368  
S: Sfr2.9368  
FF: FF9.1465  
Y: Yen232.27  
E: ECU1.009836  
S: SDR1.233384

### GOLD

London: AM \$368.95 pm \$368.35  
close \$368.25-368.75 (\$227.30)  
New York  
Comex \$370.55-371.05

### NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (oil) \$18.45 bbl (\$18.30)  
Denotes latest trading price

### RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 133.5 May (1987=100)

## Welsh Water lifts Swalec stake 4.9%

By MICHAEL TATE, CITY EDITOR

WELSH Water stunned Wales and the City yesterday with the purchase of a further 4.9 per cent stake in South Wales Electricity, which lifted the water company's investment in its compatriot utility to 14.9 per cent.

The move, prompted by Welsh Water's conviction that cost savings can be made through harmonising some of its activities, was greeted with "absolute amazement" by Wynford Evans, chairman of Swalec. He said he did not believe that there was any extra mileage in closer collaboration between the two.

Ofwat, the water company watchdog, which was said to have viewed last December's initial purchase by Welsh Water with some concern, was more relaxed. "They consulted us in advance," a spokesman said, adding that Ofwat had been satisfied that the company was not out of line with its recently published guidelines on diversification.

Ian Byatt, Ofwat's chief, has told all privatised water companies that he will not try to limit the scope of diversification provided there is proper protection for the core business and its customers.

Welsh Water took care yesterday to point out that the

funds for its investment would be provided from its own resources, and not from the water services subsidiary. In other words, it was not being financed by the customers.

The 5 million shares were bought in the market at 260p apiece, at a 12p premium, involving an immediate outlay of £13 million, and a commitment to invest a further £7 million when Swalec makes its next call on shareholders in October.

Welsh Water has now committed itself to about £51 million of investment in Swalec. It is barred from increasing its stake further by Swalec's articles of association, which limit individual shareholders to 15 per cent of the equity.

Welsh Water added that it remained convinced that substantial savings could be available if the two companies engaged in closer co-operation. The investment demonstrated Welsh Water's commitment to securing these benefits, the statement added.

Mr Evans replied that the two companies had studied the possibility of cost savings side by side a year ago, and "aside from accepting their payments in our shops, saw nothing that we could not achieve on our own."

## Reed drops dividend

By MICHAEL TATE, CITY EDITOR

SHAREHOLDERS in the Reed Executive recruitment agency are losing their final dividend after a plunge into the red last year. That hurts the controlling Reed family, which has 67 per cent of the equity, but also Reed, the chairman, has still opted to take a 14 per cent pay cut.

His salary will drop from £167,000 to about £144,000. Mr Reed said: "That's in line with the fall in turnover, and amounts to 20 per cent in real terms. The staff have been very modest about their pay

demands, so I felt I should make this gesture, particularly in the light of all the recent publicity."

Reed ran up a £798,000 pre-tax loss for the year to end-March against a profit of £5.12 million previously. A £370,000 trading profit was submerged by exceptional losses of £1.17 million, comprising closure and redundancy costs and write-offs.

Last year, the group made two payments of 0.6p a share, and there was an interim dividend of 0.6p in December.

## Royal fails to sell subsidiary

ROYAL Insurance has failed to sell Royal Reinsurance, its 80 per cent owned subsidiary, to General Re of America, after the two sides were unable to agree a price.

The collapse of negotiations is a blow to Royal, the loss-making composite insurer, which was expected to receive about £100 million in the sale.

A spokesman for Royal said Royal Re was still for sale.

### Payout missed

Gresham House, the investment trust that concentrates on emerging companies, has written down its unquoted investment portfolio by £15.2 million to £500,000. The board blames the severity of the recession. The pre-tax loss for the year to end-December was £16.7 million (£1.07 million profit). There is no second interim dividend, making a total 3p, against 7.25p last time.

### NI appointment

Stephen Barracough has been appointed financial director of News International. Mr Barracough, aged 39, currently responsible for finance and manufacturing at Marks and Spencer's New York office, succeeds Peter Steinhilber, who becomes executive director.

### BM raises £8.5m

BM Group, the construction equipment and building products company, is raising £8.5 million through the sale of 49 per cent of Blackwood Hodge (Australia) to a Japanese consortium.

### Westcoast sold

Business Technology Group, the office equipment group, is selling the Westcoast laser printer distribution company to its management for £2 million.

### Paramount buys

Paramount, the USM operator of public houses, is acquiring 30 pubs from Burtonwood Brewery for £2.6 million in cash.

### Staff laid off

Rediffusion Simulation blamed recession in the aerospace industry as it announced it was laying off 600 staff.



Most difficult trading period: Peter Edmondson

## Losses widen at Anglia Secure

By MATTHEW BOND

FIRST-HALF losses at Anglia Secure Homes, builder of sheltered housing for the elderly, have risen to £4.2 million.

The company has also passed its interim dividend for the second year in a row.

Peter Edmondson, Anglia's chairman, said the six months to end-March had been the most difficult trading period ever. In line with other housebuilders, Mr Edmondson blamed both the Gulf war and the economic recession for the continuing lack of sales.

The latest losses come 14 months after the company's

long-term future appeared to have been secured by a close association with Commercial Union. CU underwrote a third of Anglia's rescue rights issue, which left it with a 12.5 per cent stake in Anglia.

Anglia's shares, which have been as high as 74p this year, slipped 14p to 37p. During the first half, Anglia sold 139 residential homes at an average price of £68,500, against last year's £71,000. At the half-year stage the company still had 585 completed units to sell and a further 149 under construction.

## Gardner names BPP

BPP Holdings, the financial training and publishing group, has emerged as the potential bidder for DC Gardner, which is in financial trouble.

On Thursday, Gardner rejected the bid without naming the bidder, but yesterday it named BPP, alleging the company had broken the terms of a confidentiality agreement

signed in March and reinforced by a High Court injunction a fortnight ago.

BPP's bid, said Gardner, was worth 108p a share in BPP shares, with a possible cash alternative of 100p. Gardner shares, which jumped 25p to 79p on Tuesday, rose 6p to 85p in initial response to the bid terms.

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

### Anglia TV tumbles to £3.07m at halfway

PRE-TAX profits at Anglia Television more than halved from £8.08 million to £3.07 million in the six months to end-April, as advertising revenue buckled under the recession. Sir Peter Gibbins, the chairman, sees no sign of an upturn. The group made a £1.34 million profit on the sale of its Hong Kong interests, which is included as an extraordinary surplus.

The interim dividend is held at 2.5p a share. Programme sales more than doubled to £10.26 million, but the cost of acquired programmes also rose sharply under the new network arrangement. The Echequer levy was £3.47 million against £3.61 million. The year-end is to be changed from October 31 to December 31.

### Regalian 2m shares sold

THE family of David Goldstone, chairman of Regalian Properties, has sold 2.3 million shares to Norwich Union. This means that Norwich Union's stake rises from 3.1 per cent to 5.7 per cent, while the Goldstone family stake falls from around 10.5 per cent to just under 9 per cent. Regalian's shares remained at 83p.

### Asprey goes up by £2.5m

ASPREY, the USM jeweller that owns Mappin & Webb and Garrard, reports an advance in pre-tax profits from £21.9 million to £24.4 million in the year to end-March. Earnings climb to 18.54p (18.52p). The final dividend is raised to 3.75p (3.25p), for an improved total of 4.85p (4.35p). Shares were unchanged at 268p.

## Caird move blocked

SEVERN Trent has succeeded in blocking a call by Caird, the waste management group, for power to issue shares for acquisitions without first offering them to existing shareholders.

The water company has, however, failed in its attempt to block Caird's power to issue shares or to buy them in, after City institutions rallied to the troubled waste company's support. Severn Trent kept a 29.9 per cent stake in Caird after it withdrew a bid last October.

### De Morgan incurs loss

DE MORGAN Group, the consultant surveyor, suffered a pre-tax loss of £1.13 million in the year to end-April, compared with a profit of £414,000 last time. Turnover fell to £2.69 million (£5.1 million). There is a 3p loss per share (earnings of 1.84p). There is no final dividend, and there was no interim payment (1.375p).

### Church falls £6m into red

CHARLES Church Developments, the housebuilder that went private in 1989, is £6.83 million in the red pre-tax in the half year to end-February, against a profit of £6.44 million last time. The company made virtually no operating profit and the loss came from interest bills. Talks continue on a possible restructuring of debt.

## Avesco falls to £1.1m

PRE-TAX profits at Avesco, the supplier of television and video equipment, fell from £5.81 million to £1.15 million in the year to end-March. Group turnover fell by a third to £19.3 million (£28.9 million), with exports slipping to £9.63 million (£11.1 million). The final dividend is held at 1p, making an unchanged total of 1.5p for the year.

Avesco blamed the downturn on the recession and "the virtual embargo on capital purchases caused by the impending awards of the ITV franchises".

## UNIT LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

Unit	Old	New	Chng	%
ACTUAL LIFE INSURANCE	188.8	177.5	-11.3	-6.0
ACTUAL LIFE INVESTMENT	147.2	150.0	+2.8	+1.9
ACTUAL LIFE SECURITIES	28.6	27.5	-1.1	-3.8
ACTUAL LIFE REAL ESTATE	34.0	32.0	-2.0	-5.9
ACTUAL LIFE ASSET	16.1	15.0	-1.1	-6.8
ACTUAL LIFE CASH	14.0	13.5	-0.5	-3.6
ACTUAL LIFE DEBT	14.0	13.5	-0.5	-3.6
ACTUAL LIFE EQUITY	14.0	13.5	-0.5	-3.6
ACTUAL LIFE OTHER	14.0	13.5	-0.5	-3.6
ACTUAL LIFE TOTAL	188.8	177.5	-11.3	-6.0
ACTUAL LIFE AVERAGE	188.8	177.5	-11.3	-6.0
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ACTUAL LIFE COEFFICIENT OF VARIATION	188.8	177.5	-11.3	-6.0
ACTUAL LIFE SKURTNESS	188.8	177.5	-11.3	-6.0
ACTUAL LIFE KURTOSIS	188.8	177.5	-11.3	-6.0
ACTUAL LIFE MEAN	188.8	177.5	-11.3	-6.0
ACTUAL LIFE MODE	188.8	177.5	-11.3	-6.0
ACTUAL LIFE MEDIAN	188.8	177.5	-11.3	-6.0
ACTUAL LIFE RANGE	188.8	177.5	-11.3	-6.0
ACTUAL LIFE STANDARD DEVIATION	188.8	177.5	-11.3	-6.0
ACTUAL LIFE COEFFICIENT OF VARIATION	188.8	177.5	-11.3	-6.0
ACTUAL LIFE SKURTNESS	188.8	177.5	-11.3	-6.0
ACTUAL LIFE KURTOSIS	188.8	177.5	-11.3	-6.0
ACTUAL LIFE MEAN	188.8	177.5	-11.3	-6.0
ACTUAL LIFE MODE	188.8	177.5	-11.3	-6.0
ACTUAL LIFE MEDIAN	188.8	177.5	-11.3	-6.0
ACTUAL LIFE RANGE	188.8	177.5	-11.3	-6.0
ACTUAL LIFE STANDARD DEVIATION	188.8	177.5	-11.3	-6.0
ACTUAL LIFE COEFFICIENT OF VARIATION	188.8	177.5	-11.3	-6.0
ACTUAL LIFE SKURTNESS	188.8	177.5	-11.3	-6.0
ACTUAL LIFE KURTOSIS	188.8	177.5	-11.3	-6.0
ACTUAL LIFE MEAN	188.8	177.5	-11.3	-6.0
ACTUAL LIFE MODE	188.8	177.5	-11.3	-6.0
ACTUAL LIFE MEDIAN	188.8	177.5	-11.3	-6.0
ACTUAL LIFE RANGE	188.8	177.5	-11.3	-6.0
ACTUAL LIFE STANDARD DEVIATION	188.8	177.5	-11.3	-6.0
ACTUAL LIFE COEFFICIENT OF VARIATION	188.8	177.5	-11.3	-6.0
ACTUAL LIFE SKURTNESS	188.8	177.5	-11.3	-6.0
ACTUAL LIFE KURTOSIS	188.8	177.5	-11.3	-6.0
ACTUAL LIFE MEAN	188.8	177.5	-11.3	-6.0
ACTUAL LIFE MODE	188.8	177.5	-11.3	-6.0
ACTUAL LIFE MEDIAN	188.8	177.5	-11.3	-6.0
ACTUAL LIFE RANGE	188.8	177.5	-11.3	-6.0
ACTUAL LIFE STANDARD DEVIATION	188.8	177.5	-11.3	-6.0
ACTUAL LIFE COEFFICIENT OF VARIATION	188.8	177.5	-11.3	-6.0
ACTUAL LIFE SKURTNESS	188.8	177.5	-11.3	-6.0
ACTUAL LIFE KURTOSIS	188.8	177.5	-11.3	-6.0
ACTUAL LIFE MEAN	188.8	177.5	-11.3	-6.0
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ACTUAL LIFE STANDARD DEVIATION	188.8	177.5	-11.3	-6.0
ACTUAL LIFE				



# Million dollar man with charm to spare

**BUSINESS PROFILE**  
By Carol Leonard

**Dick Giordano**

The chairman of BOC is a native New Yorker. He enjoys one of the highest salaries in Britain and the looks, many say, of a matinee idol

Dick Giordano, the chairman of BOC and, with a salary of £1.02 million last year, one of the highest paid men in Britain, paces the room like a caged tiger. He laughs at the analogy. It is not the first time he has been likened to one of the big cats. "But I don't growl, I purr," he says, with the easy charm one would expect from a slick American executive and an honorary knight. Dick Giordano does not disappoint.

He has also been described as having matinee idol looks. He is tall, 6ft 3ins in fact, with thick silver hair. He carries himself with that certain poise that only comes from years of regular physical exercise — Canadian Air Force physical jocks once a day — and yes, he is undeniably handsome.

Study his facial features a little closer, however, and his pugilistic nose causes any initial thoughts of Cary Grant to be marred by images of George Walker.

When not smiling he can look menacing, Hollywood's perfect Italian godfather. Until that is, he opens his mouth to speak. Any such celluloid illusions are then immediately shattered. For his turn of phrase is unexpectedly reminiscent of Alistair Cooke, but with a gruffer, far sexier tone.

Persuade him to pull up a chair and he looks strangely ill at ease until he finally hoists his large feet up on to an adjacent table. In so doing he reveals the thick rubber soles of his otherwise conventional British brogues.

Take a second look at his dark, traditional suit and it too is not quite what it first appears. The worsted is woven with checks rather than stripes, a clue perhaps to Giordano's Italian ancestry. He was once featured in a *Financial Times* best dressed businessman list — and to his cautiously rebellious nature.

Such clues are an essential aid to understanding this little-known beast because if you were to read everything that has been written about him in the British press, you would still know almost nothing. His only popular claim to fame is that for a number of years in the Eighties, until he was overtaken in 1988 by Sir Ralph Halpern, Giordano, now aged 57, was the highest paid businessman in the land.

Giordano was, in fact, the first business executive in Britain to break through that magical salary barrier of \$1 million a year. His salary, then standing at about \$500,000, fell to \$797,000 in 1988 as a consequence of exchange rate fluctuations. It has now crept back up beyond its previous, headline-grabbing level, but that has gone largely unnoticed this time round. Perhaps it is because one or two other British executives have now overtaken him in the million pound, let alone dollar, pay stakes — but only just.

Like most Americans, Giordano is only too happy to talk about money. "It's a real bore but there is a serious subject at work here. And it's a complicated subject," he says, in an accent that smacks more of upper crust New England than his native New York.

"There really is a market place in executives, it's not a perfect market place because

everyone is not transferable, but in the last couple of years British firms have entered into that market place like never before." He again paces the room. His relief at escaping the confines of a chair is tangible. It is as if he can only think and speak at his most lucid from a standing position.

"At the moment there is a shortage of modern-style finance directors in this country and during the past couple of years the good ones have been playing musical chairs," he continues.

"Because there's a shortage, if you want to hire a finance director in the UK you will pay £200,000 to £250,000 a year. What's the market in the boss? It's difficult to say. But there should also be a sense of fairness. Why does a guy have to change jobs to qualify for the price?"

Giordano is understandably mystified by the recent furore caused when senior executives of several newly privatised industries received pay increases taking their gross annual salaries to a comparatively paltry £120,000 or so. Giordano earns £85,000 a month. "It amazes me that what seems to me like quite a minuscule amount of money can occupy such a large amount of space."

What then, is his idea of minuscule? "Well, like the fact that a guy making £170,000 gets a 20 per cent rise and all of a sudden he gets news coverage. There must be a degree of envy. And I find it sad that the chairman of British Telecom gets a £162,000 pay rise and is pressurised into giving some of his salary to charity. If he is doing it because he feels charitable, that's fine, but if not, then that's terrible."

As for his own salary, Giordano is unabashed. "When I came to work here I was coming to work for a hostile board and, although we patched up our acrimony straight away, I was worried about acrimony deeper within the company. I wanted to be paid by American standards and I negotiated the formula for my salary there and then. If you look at my pay over the past ten years it has climbed more or less in line with inflation."

Giordano took the helm at BOC in the autumn of 1979, a year after a complicated, fiercely contested takeover bid by BOC for Airco, an American air products company, which he then ran. He has

already gone on record as saying that, as soon as the takeover was complete, he bought himself a yacht — a 63 ft ketch — since he expected to be sacked.

"That's certainly what I would have done if the roles had been reversed," he now says. Instead, the BOC board invited him to come to London to become its chief executive. He became its chairman six years later, in 1985.

Now widely respected within the industry and much sought after as a non-executive director in other, unrelated fields, he has so far accepted just three British boardroom positions in Grand Metropolitan, National Power and Reuters.

BOC has not, however, entirely escaped the recession. Pre-tax profits in the six months to the end of March, 1991, fell 12 per cent to £150 million. But they would have been more or less unchanged if exchange rates had held steady. And that, in today's uncertain economic climate,

is surely evidence enough to make a virtue out of the off-heard City criticism that BOC's management has been under-achieving. Giordano, due to retire in January next year and to hand over the chairmanship to his chosen successor, Patrick Rich, BOC's newly appointed chief executive, takes understandable pride in pointing out that if you had invested £1 in two BOC shares at the beginning of 1980, shortly after he arrived, that £1 would be worth more than £14 today.

He also recalls that within his first three years with the company he had reduced staff levels from 30,000 to 10,000 and sold off more than 20 different businesses.

"It was a period of great change," he says with typical modesty.

Bob Malpas, non-executive director of BOC, describes Giordano as "the very, very acceptable face of capitalism". He can, he says, be ruthless, but even then he cares about both individuals and the environment, and acts accordingly.

"The Giordano years will be remembered for turning the transatlantic business into truly one company and for opening up the Far East. BOC, under Giordano, has been hugely successful out there. The role left for Patrick Rich to play is to cross the Channel, and build on the foundations

that have already been laid." Ironically, despite his City reputation, it was adventure that the young Giordano actively sought when he gave up a fledgling career as a Wall Street lawyer — the product of Harvard and Columbia University Law School — with the New York firm Shearman & Sterling, to join Airco, one of his clients.

"Law was actually fun," he says. "It was intellectually stimulating, hard work and you had to learn disciplines, which was great training. But you were working with lawyers, hunching and dining with lawyers, playing squash and tennis with lawyers and you saw the world through a pretty narrow prism."

"Nor is it a business of risk. Lawyers never take risks, the clients do. I wanted a little more adventure than that."

"My firm was sort of like Linklaters here, or Slaughter & May, and the thing about these big law firms is that you can actually see what you will look like and what you will be doing when you are 30, 40, 50, 60. There are no surprises in store. I was only 28 when I decided to get out and into business and many of my lawyer peers thought I was bonkers."

Giordano initially signed a five-year employment contract with BOC, extended it for a further five, and claims he has only lingered for two years beyond that ten-year timespan in order to find and introduce his successor who, it so happens, is two years Giordano's senior.

The duration of his time at BOC coincides, almost exactly, with Mrs Thatcher's reign at 10 Downing Street. Giordano describes this as "exquisite timing" or "serendipity, perhaps".

"It has been an absolutely fascinating time. I had been coming over here once a month in the 1970s and it was a diabolical pain. I can tell you. Everybody's tail was between their legs."

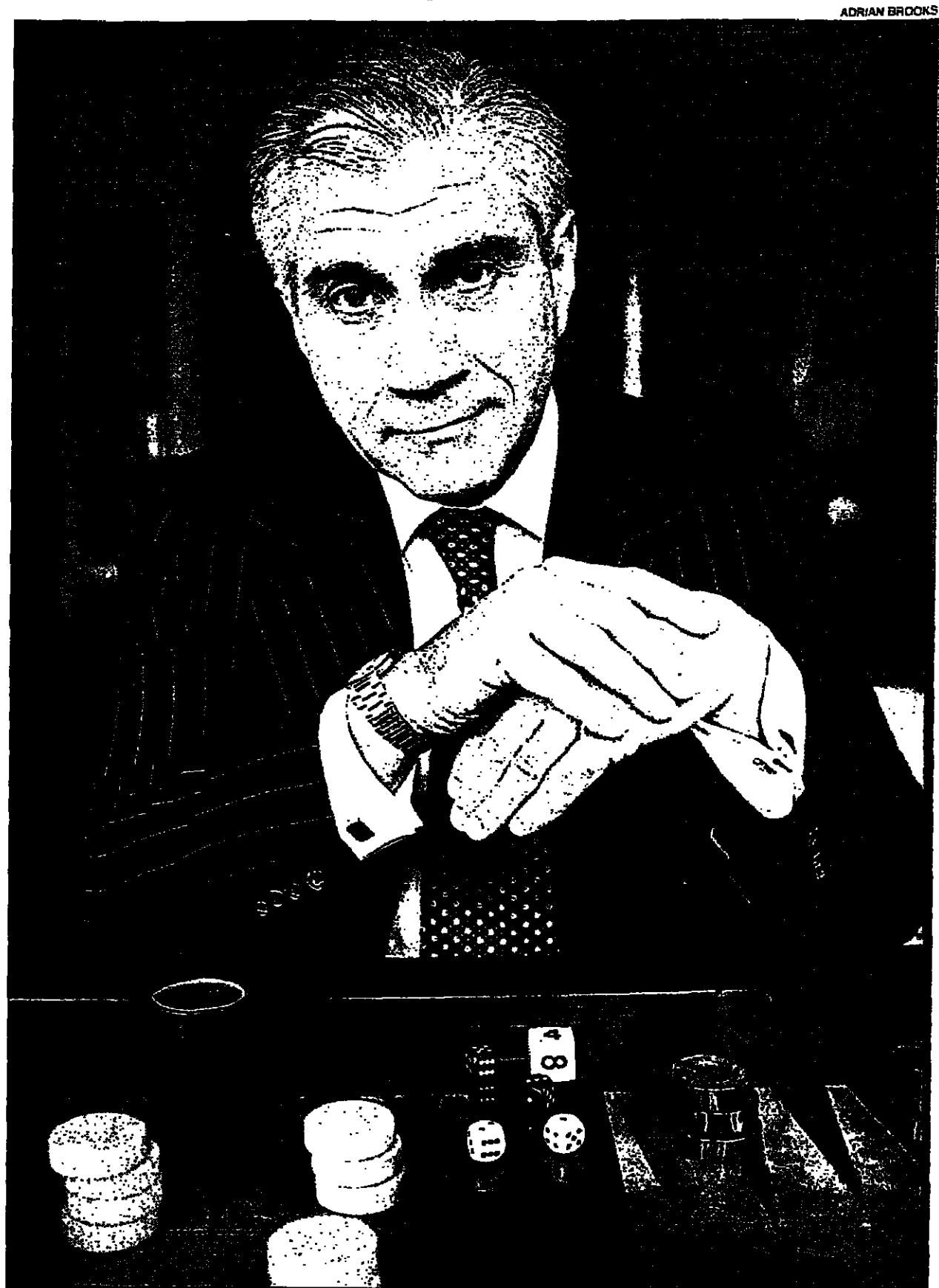
"Britain has now changed and it was her stimulus. It has joined the international business community and it can never be so insular again. Whoever comes to power, their room to manoeuvre is narrower and narrower."

Contrary to some earlier reports, however, Giordano has no plans to return full time to America when he is finally released from his BOC contract. He seems to have changed his mind.

"Home is here now," he says, speaking from his expensive Cadogan Square flat. It is one of three homes he owns. The others are a Manhattan apartment and a house in Martha's Vineyard, the chic New England resort.

Giordano's story is not one of rags to riches. Although born of Italian immigrant parents who were, he admits, "pretty ambitious", he was brought up in a comfortable, middle class home. His father was well educated — "he could already speak English when he arrived in the US" — and he set up his own business as a clothing manufacturer.

Despite his background, however, Giordano claims he became a lawyer almost by default. "I wrote to just one



Winning look: Dick Giordano at the backgammon table in his London residence. The home lacks a woman's touch

law school, they accepted me and so I went. It was a way of postponing work for three years. I didn't do it out of any great sense of direction. I had been intending to go to India to teach English and civics to backward kids."

He certainly does not appear to speak or act like a typical lawyer. But Sir Allen Sheppard, the chairman of Grand Metropolitan, claims that this could be a useful disguise.

"He smiles quite a bit and he uses his charm," says Sir Allen. "His charm belies his rapier-like, analytical legal mind and his sharp sense of humour. He is quite a character, he is always good company, and I think he finds it useful that people often underestimate him by assuming that he is simply charming and good looking."

Giordano mentions just that type of man at one point in our conversation, saying that the business world is now so sophisticated that it is no longer a place for "attractive fellows who smile and shake your hand and slap you on the back".

He clearly sees himself as being entirely different from that. He appears unimpressed by his own physical qualities which, of course, makes them all the more effective.

His disarmingly relaxed approach to life — "I don't think I lose my temper, I never thump the table in anger, I never let the stress get to me, some people would say I was too soft" — is compounded by his egalitarian approach to life in the workplace.

Giordano encourages all his colleagues to call him Dick. "I like the freedom to call people by their Christian names and so I have to accept that they will call me by mine."

He also prides himself on running an informal board. "The purpose of a boardroom is to get business done and I think formality is a barrier. It was with horror that, a decade ago, he discovered several tiers of staff canteens within BOC. He abolished them at once."

"At some facilities we had three levels of dining rooms. A simple difference of £1,000 a year in salary could kick you up into a different room. That was tough on the people with small salaries."

And he would dearly love to do away with all company

cars. "It's just another way for people to separate themselves and I would rather give them the money and let them buy what they want. But at least with cars it doesn't manifest itself until people get out into the parking lot."

It says something about him that, despite his impressive track record, he spends more time talking about his failures than his successes. "Oh, I've had loads. In fact, we've had significant failures in every business we've been in," he says. "In the gas business we've made investments in the wrong place, the carbon business went bad on us and this Glascock business has given us nothing but trouble for the past three or four years." He always underplays his hand.

Although he has always been keen on sport — shooting, sailing, playing tennis and, in his youth, American football — he describes himself as a loner. As a schoolboy he was "certainly not gregarious. I read a lot and although I was an athlete, sport can be a solitary activity if you spend a lot of time disciplining yourself."

As a footballer he played left tackle on a single wing. "You had to be fast and you had to like to hit people. That's not a very gregarious activity; pretty anti-social if you think about it."

It is probably just as well that this trait has been in-built for so long. For Giordano's three children all live in America and, for the past four years, he has been separated from his wife, Barbara. He seems uncertain about divorce. "We're in limbo I think."

He denies that the separation was caused by the pressures of his job. "I suspect it's just about two people wanting to do different things."

But it is clear to an onlooker that the job has taken its toll. You do not, it seems, earn £1 million a year without paying a price. Giordano's London residence is devoid of homely touches. Although he owns it, it has the atmosphere of a functional company flat.

"It's because his wife isn't there," observes one colleague. And when asked for the names of any non-work related friends, Giordano seems surprised. "Oh, I don't think I have any of those," he says.

*'His charm belies his rapier-like legal mind and sharp sense of humour'*

## Speyhawk shares become arena for speculators only

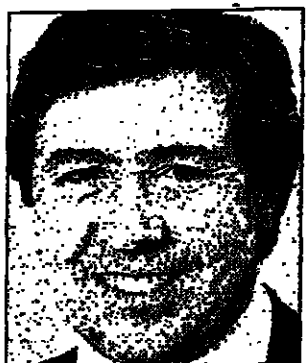
THE increasingly familiar sight of burned fingers surrounded shares in Speyhawk, the property developer and trader, yesterday.

The shares touched 54p, 10p up on Thursday's opening. Later they were 29p, 21p down on the day, as the market expressed its view of Speyhawk's decision not to pay the next dividend on its two preference share issues.

Trevor Osborne, chairman, believes he had no choice, given that last year's losses of £2.9 million had grown considerably in the first half of the year. In the six months to end-March Speyhawk made a pre-tax loss of £10.7 million, against a profit of £5.2 million. Given Mr Osborne's view on paying dividends when losses are made, there was no interim dividend (3.5p).

Speyhawk's financial situation shows why it and other developer-traders are so out of favour. Including non-recourse debt, the company has total borrowings of £270 million, giving a gearing level of about 200 per cent.

The only realistic way to lower this significantly is for the company to sell one or both of its big uncompleted City office developments,



Osborne: losses widen

which together will require a further £15 million to £20 million of expenditure in the second half. It would be foolish to sell these properties before they are completed. Mr Osborne says he has a good relationship with his banks. He needs to. Highly speculative.

### Eurocamp

AFTER waiting patiently for more than a year for steadier market conditions more suited to a flotation, Eurocamp chose the wettest June on record to release its prospectus. The weather may not appeal to camping enthusiasts, but investors should not be dis-

couraged. Eurocamp is a sound business, holding a leading position in a niche market that has shown itself to be resilient in an economic slump.

The company's self-drive camping and caravan holidays in Europe appeal largely to sections of the population unaffected by high interest rates — young back-packing adventurers without the financial commitment of a mortgage and active retired couples with time and money.

Eurocamp has grown steadily, if unspectacularly, since the management acquired it from Next in 1988. Almost 30 per cent of its business comes from Germany and The Netherlands, compared with 16 per cent three years ago, and the plan is to continue reducing dependence on the British market. Eurocamp must pay only for the cross-Channel car space its British customers require, so its outlay is modest compared with holiday companies that must buy aircraft seats.

Priced at 225p, the shares are offered at 10.8 times forecast earnings of 20.8p a share. They are keenly priced but should attract longer-term investors.

## STOCK MARKET

### Index falls 37 points

LONDON'S equivalent of the triple witching hour sent a shudder through the Square Mile as share prices fell sharply.

The expiry of the June futures and options and the end of the trading account produced technical selling that found dealers and investors rushing to cover their positions as the second quarter drew to a close.

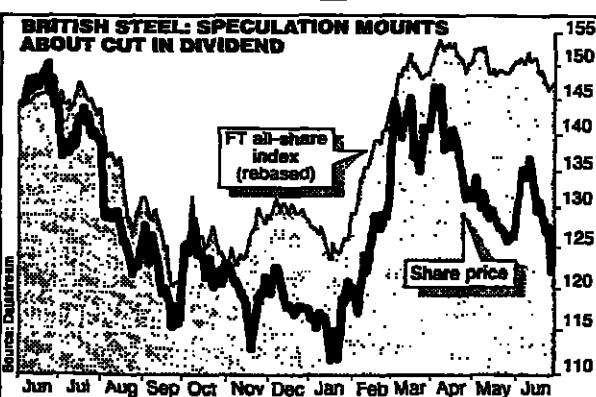
Attempts by the market to consolidate its position above 2,450 after Thursday's rally proved futile.

A sharp fall in shares in Germany and a 30-point setback on Wall Street in early trading meant that prices in London closed at their lowest of the day. The FT-SE 100 index dropped 37.7 to 2,414.8 — a fall on the account of 107.5. The FT 30 index lost 34.1 to 1,877.9 in scrappy trading that saw 549 million shares traded.

Government securities rose 2½ as investors switched from the German bond market.

British Steel was a nervous market, falling 5p to 122p before Monday's full-year figures. These are expected to show pre-tax profits slumping from £733 million to £220 million.

There is also a growing feeling that the dividend will



be cut. BS paid 8.2p last year and has forecast 8.8p for this year. Burton's decision to ask shareholders for £161 million underlined the seriousness of its financial position.

The share price dropped below its 50p par value on Thursday, which, most City experts thought, would prohibit a rights issue. Burton finished 2p lower at 44p with more than 44 million shares changing hands.

Talk of a profits downgrade by James Capel, the broker, left Pearson 15p lower at 684p. Vickers fell 5p to 193p after its annual presentation on Thursday for fund managers and analysts. Escalator, the jewellery group, fell 5p to 43p. The board says it

knows of no reason for the fall and the financial position remains sound.

Kingsgrange, the toiletries group, rose 3p to 29p after learning of a bid approach by an unnamed suitor. Kingsgrange has already received a 28p-a-share bid from Matarah, a private company.

Anglia Television lost 8p to 148p on news of a 62 per cent fall in interim pre-tax profits to £3.07 million.

New York — Shares opened lower after sharp losses in European and Japanese markets and so reversed the trend of the previous two days. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 30 points to 2,904.93.

MICHAEL CLARK

## COMPANY BRIEFS

**AMBERLEY GROUP (Fin)**  
Pre-tax: £225,000  
EPS: 2.04p (3.27p)  
Div: 1.5p (1.5p)  
Sales: £3.3m (£3.66m)

**CRANBROOK ELECTRONIC HOLDINGS**  
Pre-tax: Loss £95,000  
EPS: 1.0p (2.0p)  
Div: Nil (nil)

**SYLTON (Fin)**  
Pre-tax: £22.13m (£2.41m)  
EPS: 22.18p (19.43p)  
Div: 8p, mkg 9p (8p)  
Sales: £33.7m (£32.8m)

**ENSOR HOLDINGS (Fin)**  
Pre-tax: £327,000  
EPS: 2.13p (10.53p)  
Div: Nil, mkg 1.25p  
Sales: £22.7m (£26.4m)

**DANAE INVESTMENT TRUST (Fin)**  
Pre-tax: £708,000  
EPS: 7.44p (7.97p)  
Div: 4.575p, mkg 7.95p

**ELECTRIC AND GENERAL INVESTMENT COMPANY**  
Pre-tax: £4.09m (£3.85m)  
EPS: 3.28p (3.08p)  
Div: 1.5p, mkg 3p

**TILLING (THOMAS) (Fin)**  
Pre-tax: £152,000  
EPS: 8.5p (11.6p)  
Div: 8.15p, mkg 8.15p

**GREENWICH COMMS (Fin)**  
Pre-tax: Loss £95,000  
EPS: 1.38p (0.96p)  
Div: N/A

Last time's profit was £370,000. The board reports that the results for the first quarter of the current year show an improvement due to more favourable weather. Interim results. Last time's loss was £251,000. Turnover fell to £4.27m (£5.27m). The board does not expect any improvement in trading in the second half.

Fully diluted earnings per share 19.81p (17.54p). Company says that the British truck market still shows no sign of returning to more normal levels.

Last time's profit was £1.53m. Last time's total dividend was 3.3p. Interest payable rose to £834,000, against £755,000. Distribution costs were £1m (£907,000).

Last time's profit was £758,000. Total dividend last time was 7.95p. NAV: 51.97p (£2.46p) per income share and 47.31p (£8.28p) per capital share.

Final results. Net assets per share taking prior charges at par were 137.1p (137.1p). Total dividend last time was 3p, including 0.5p centenary dividend.

Last time's profit was £175,000. Last time's total dividend was 11.25p. There was an extraordinary debit of £2,000.

Negotiations are at an advanced stage where Greenwiche Media and Television will continue to supply game shows to a new company.

## TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

Due to pressure on space, various statistics have been held out, and some of Friday's company results will be published on Monday.







## Portfolio PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add these prices to your running total for the week and check this against the weekly dividend figure on this page. If it matches this figure, you have won outright or a share of the total weekly prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Code or Name
1	Qatar Group	Transport	
2	Electron House	Electronics	
3	James & Shipman	Industrial E-K	
4	Stewart (Gulf)	Paper, Print, Adv	
5	Nat Asset Bk	Bank, Discount	
6	Tate	Industrial S-Z	
7	Clyde Pst	Oil, Gas	
8	Baker PLC	Building, Roads	
9	Lap	Transport	
10	Townshires	Textiles	
11	Davy	Industrial A-D	
12	Widley	Industrial S-Z	
13	Wren Gr	Paper, Print, Adv	
14	Radley Inv	Industrial A-D	
15	Copple (T)	Motor, Aircraft	
16	Manders	Building, Roads	
17	FRG Holdings	Industrial L-R	
18	Barlow Rand	Industrial A-D	
19	Gr Portland	Property	
20	Royal Bk	Electronics	
21	Woodside	Oil, Gas	
22	Drummond	Textiles	
23	Whitbread	Industrial S-Z	
24	Wadsworth	Food	
25	The Bank	Bank, Discount	
26	Waring SG	Bank, Discount	
27	Black	Electronics	
28	Lee (Arthur)	Industrial L-R	
29	Outland Instruments	Electronics	
30	Oil Search	Oil, Gas	
31	SD-Scotson	Electronics	
32	Benham Gp	Newspaper, Pub	
33	Halcayes Gp	Electronics	
34	Yale Cotto	Chemicals, Plastics	
35	Radford	Property	
36	Yale Cotto	Industrial L-R	
37	Rand Telecom	Electronics	
38	Rand Gp	Industrial L-R	
39	Abbott Mnd	Paper, Print, Adv	
40	Hammerston	Property	
41	Barrthorne	Electronics	
42	Truflinger H	Industrial S-Z	
43	Cook (Wm)	Industrial A-D	
44	Copper (James)	Paper, Print, Adv	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend						
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £8,000 in today's newspaper.						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	TOTAL

The £2,000 Portfolio Platinum prize was won yesterday by Mr John Campion, of Derby.

### BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS (Under Five Years)	
Qatar Group	100.00
Electron House	100.00
James & Shipman	100.00
Stewart (Gulf)	100.00
Nat Asset Bk	100.00
Tate	100.00
Clyde Pst	100.00
Baker PLC	100.00
Lap	100.00
Townshires	100.00
Davy	100.00
Widley	100.00
Wren Gr	100.00
Radley Inv	100.00
Copple (T)	100.00
Manders	100.00
FRG Holdings	100.00
Barlow Rand	100.00
Gr Portland	100.00
Royal Bk	100.00
Woodside	100.00
Drummond	100.00
Whitbread	100.00
Wadsworth	100.00
The Bank	100.00
Waring SG	100.00
Black	100.00
Lee (Arthur)	100.00
Outland Instruments	100.00
Oil Search	100.00
SD-Scotson	100.00
Benham Gp	100.00
Halcayes Gp	100.00
Yale Cotto	100.00
Radford	100.00
Yale Cotto	100.00
Rand Telecom	100.00
Rand Gp	100.00
Abbott Mnd	100.00
Hammerston	100.00
Barrthorne	100.00
Truflinger H	100.00
Cook (Wm)	100.00
Copper (James)	100.00

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS	
Qatar Group	100.00
Electron House	100.00
James & Shipman	100.00
Stewart (Gulf)	100.00
Nat Asset Bk	100.00
Tate	100.00
Clyde Pst	100.00
Baker PLC	100.00
Lap	100.00
Townshires	100.00
Davy	100.00
Widley	100.00
Wren Gr	100.00
Radley Inv	100.00
Copple (T)	100.00
Manders	100.00
FRG Holdings	100.00
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Yale Cotto	100.00
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Yale Cotto	100.00
Rand Telecom	100.00
Rand Gp	100.00
Abbott Mnd	100.00
Hammerston	100.00
Barrthorne	100.00
Truflinger H	100.00
Cook (Wm)	100.00
Copper (James)	100.00

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS	
Qatar Group	100.00
Electron House	100.00
James & Shipman	100.00
Stewart (Gulf)	100.00
Nat Asset Bk	100.00
Tate	100.00
Clyde Pst	100.00
Baker PLC	100.00
Lap	100.00
Townshires	100.00
Davy	100.00
Widley	100.00
Wren Gr	100.00
Radley Inv	100.00
Copple (T)	100.00
Manders	100.00
FRG Holdings	100.00
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Waring SG	100.00
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Lee (Arthur)	100.00
Outland Instruments	100.00
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Yale Cotto	100.00
Radford	100.00
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Rand Gp	100.00
Abbott Mnd	100.00
Hammerston	100.00
Barrthorne	100.00
Truflinger H	100.00
Cook (Wm)	100.00
Copper (James)	100.00

UNDATED	
Qatar Group	100.00
Electron House	100.00
James & Shipman	100.00
Stewart (Gulf)	100.00
Nat Asset Bk	100.00
Tate	100.00
Clyde Pst	100.00
Baker PLC	100.00
Lap	100.00
Townshires	100.00
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Rand Gp	100.00
Abbott Mnd	100.00
Hammerston	100.00
Barrthorne	100.00
Truflinger H	100.00
Cook (Wm)	100.00
Copper (James)	100.00

INDEX-LINKED	
Qatar Group	100.00
Electron House	100.00
James & Shipman	100.00
Stewart (Gulf)	100.00
Nat Asset Bk	100.00
Tate	100.00
Clyde Pst	100.00
Baker PLC	100.00
Lap	100.00
Townshires	100.00
Davy	100.00
Widley	100.00
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Radley Inv	100.00
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Hammerston	100.00
Barrthorne	100.00
Truflinger H	100.00
Cook (Wm)	100.00
Copper (James)	100.00

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP	
Qatar Group	100.00
Electron House	100.00
James & Shipman	100.00
Stewart (Gulf)	100.00
Nat Asset Bk	100.00
Tate	100.00
Clyde Pst	100.00
Baker PLC	100.00
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Radford	100.00
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Rand Telecom	100.00
Rand Gp	100.00
Abbott Mnd	100.00
Hammerston	100.00
Barrthorne	100.00
Truflinger H	100.00
Cook (Wm)	100.00
Copper (James)	100.00

ELECTRICALS	
Qatar Group	100.00
Electron House	100.00
James & Shipman	100.00
Stewart (Gulf)	100.00
Nat Asset Bk	100.00
Tate	100.00
Clyde Pst	100.00
Baker PLC	100.00
Lap	100.00
Townshires	100.00
Davy	100.00
Widley	100.00
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Rand Telecom	100.00
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Abbott Mnd	100.00
Hammerston	100.00
Barrthorne	100.00
Truflinger H	100.00
Cook (Wm)	100.00
Copper (James)	100.00

## STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

# Account ends weakly

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began June 17. Dealings ended yesterday. Settlement day July 1. Settlement day July 8.  
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1991		Company	Price		Change	Yield %	P/E
High	Low		Bid	Offer			
211	147	Ref Int St	372	378	+5	11.2	6.4
949	948	Strogers	785	810	—	18.7	23.16
412	285	Stent Chart	391	397	-1	18.7	8.8
163	234	TDR	138	140	+2	8.6	1.11
100	100	Union Clac	448	455	-7	16.5	17.7
285	274	Woods 25	151	154	+3	21.3	—
165	169	Do B's 'A'	151	154	—	8.8	3.2
55	55	Wade Farg	436	—	-1	—	—
222	225	Wendgar	288	212	+2	—	—
353	285	Wingate	320	325	-2	11.8	3.7



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- COMPENSATION WARNING 35

# WEEKEND MONEY

THE TIMES SATURDAY JUNE 29 1991

Edited by Lindsay Cook

## No time for timeshare protection

**N**ext week sees the anniversary of the Office of Fair Trading's (OFT) timeshare report. Not a lot seems to have happened to clean up the deceptions perpetrated by this hard-sell industry since then.

Readers are still bombarded with notifications that they have won prizes, only to find that to claim them they must travel to London's Leicester Square with their spouse, but no children under six, and sit through a two-hour timeshare presentation.

The latest mailing has an impressive stamp from the Nuneaton Public Notary and comes from someone describing himself as the programme manager from the department of sweepstakes and awards.

One reader was unable to find a babysitter on the specific days presentations are scheduled, so he will never find out whether he had won the 1991 Peugeot 205 XE, a Chippendale tray, £1,000 in cash, a Technic auto security system or a 9ct gold bracelet. Or whether the prize would be worth

the cost of the petrol to get him and his wife from Leighton Buzzard in Bedfordshire.

Sir Gordon Borrie's report called for legislation to give people signing up for a timeshare on trade premises 14 days to change their minds. There is still no such protection. People who agree to buy a timeshare to get away from the hard sell, in the belief they can cancel it as soon as they get home, are wrong.

Sir Gordon also wanted the Trade Descriptions Act to cover the contents of mailshots. The act does not cover prizes. Parliamentary time has not been made available to rectify this in the last year. The OFT and 200,000 people estimated to receive a timeshare mailing each week must be hoping time will be made available soon. A survey in 1989 showed that 48 per cent of a sample of people aged 16 and



### COMMENT

LINDSAY COOK  
WEEKEND MONEY EDITOR

over had received some timeshare mail in the previous year. Six per cent of those had attended presentations. There are no statistics, however, as to how many people are disappointed by the type of prize they actually receive.

### Cold comfort

**R**egulations on the cold calling of investments were published this week. These open the way, from September, for stockbrokers and

portfolio management services to sell their wares to investors who are found by a trawl through the phone book.

It could herald an irritating rise in the number of calls received at home or in the office from investment salesmen. There will, however, be a cooling off period for investors and the salesmen must only sell suitable products. There is a welcome tightening of the unsolicited calls regulations for the new risky geared futures and options funds (GFOFs). Because it will be possible for investors to lose all

their money rapidly in GFOFs, cold calls will be limited to established customers and will only be permitted by a firm contracted to manage the customer's portfolio or review it regularly. Regulators have already admitted, however, that these rules will be difficult to police in practice and that some more unscrupulous firms could stretch the definitions of established customers and investment managers to their utmost.

Warnings will also have to be provided in literature for the new GFOF and warrant funds. These will spell out their potential volatility and the possibility that the whole of the investor's initial stake could be lost.

No specific guidelines are being given on the wording though, which should allow fund managers enough latitude to mislead potential investors. We

have all seen how the standard Financial Services Act warning, that equity products can fall in value as well as rise, can be turned around by firms. Too often they add phrases to imply that their investment performance has only been upwards.

We will monitor closely the first GFOF funds to be launched and all their marketing material to make sure the spirit of the marketing rules is adhered to.

Already, firms are offering prizes to investors through mailshots that ask them to guess the level of the FT-SE index at a specific date. The winner will receive a prize. A few may be lucky. Many will undoubtedly hear a lot more from such investment firms once they have entered.

They might even be among the first recipients of mailings for the new risky funds. Those who failed to guess the level of the FT-SE correctly might be better off ignoring any future offers. Those who are successful must remember that beginner's luck rarely lasts.

### Lenders control repossession escape route

## Tenants help bail home owners out of arrears

By SARA MCCONNELL

**H**OME owners in arrears on their mortgage repayments who want to rent out their property will usually only be allowed to do so for six months and lenders may charge extra for the privilege.

Rising numbers of arrears and repossessions have encouraged more borrowers to try to solve the problem by finding someone prepared to live in their home and pay enough rent to cover the mortgage. Most lenders say they are prepared to allow borrowers to do this, so long as they ask permission.

Renting out property without permission is usually considered a breach of the mortgage contract.

Lenders say they prefer to let people rent out their home than be forced to repossess, but they are wary of being saddled with a sitting tenant in a property whose owner is already in arrears.

Sam Gracie, Halifax's lending operations controller, said: "Renting is a possible solution in some cases but we don't want to do it for more than six months at a time. The borrower has responsibility for handing over the money from the tenant and we cannot force them to do this."

"Any tenancy agreement lasting longer than six months could embroil the society in further action to evict tenants as well if the house had to be repossessed," said Mr Gracie.

Paul Rossiter, Abbey National's manager of properties in possession, said the bank would insist on rent being paid to it directly rather than through the home owner if the money was not coming through every month.

"Asking to rent the property out is not a common option but we don't refuse outright. It must be an assured shorthold tenancy so that the tenant only has security of tenure for six months. It is not an option we actively promote and we have only approved half a dozen cases so far."

The Nationwide and the Woolwich also say they will



Request refused: the Halifax turned down Carol Rawson's plea to rent out her home

allow borrowers to rent out properties for up to six months. Lenders will insist on checking the lease and will review it every six months.

The Household Mortgage Corporation, the centralised lender, said it adds an extra 1 per cent to mortgages on rented out properties. The Abbey National adds the same.

The Abbey's Mr Rossiter said people should make sure they ask a high enough rent to cover this extra charge. Payments will also rise because home owners renting property will no longer qualify for mortgage interest tax relief.

Even with the restrictions imposed by lenders, renting should be cheaper for the lender and less stressful for the borrower than repossession.

When Carol Rawson, however, approached her building society, the Halifax, with a proposal to rent out her £120,000 home in London's Crystal Palace, she was not expecting her request to be refused. She had remortgaged her home with the society in September 1990 to raise money to run her interior design business, but was forced to close in February after orders fell off because of the recession.

Ms Rawson was unable to make monthly mortgage payments of £1,463 and by March was two months behind. A friend was prepared to pay her £1,500 a month to rent the flat on a short-term agreed tenancy while Ms Rawson tried to sell the flat and build another business.

In March she obtained verbal agreement from the Halifax. However, she received no reply to a letter formally requesting permission from head office. Attempts to contact her branch in Kensington failed and arrears mounted.

Two months later, she was told by the society that she could not rent out her property because she was in arrears. The Halifax told her she would have to hand back the

ATTEMPTS to provide home-buyers with redundancy-only insurance have been unsuccessful so far, and the cost of policies that combine cover for redundancy with insurance for accidents and sickness is rising (Sara McConnell writes).

Demand from buyers had prompted mortgage brokers to seek the redundancy-only cover, which would be cheaper than accident, sickness and unemployment policies.

Many buyers fear unemployment most because their employers would continue to pay them if they were sick or accidentally injured.

Underwriters are refusing to take on the increased risks of redundancy-only cover as unemployment continues to rise.

The number of claims, particularly for redundancy, is increasing, and insurers are beginning to restrict the benefits of policies.

Mortgage brokers, such as John Charcol and Chase de Vere, who are trying to arrange redundancy-only cover for their clients, are being turned down by underwriters.

Paul Marks, managing director of Chase de Vere, said: "We are looking at offering

## Underwriters foil moves to offer new cover

redundancy-only cover, which would be cheaper than traditional accident, sickness and unemployment cover, but redundancy is more of a risk in isolation."

Chase de Vere's only scheme paying out on redundancy is negotiated with Lloyd's of London for home-buyers in Fairclough Homes developments. It is sold to all buyers so the risk is spread.

Simon Checkley, a director of John Charcol, said underwriters were showing "a chronic shortage of willingness" to underwrite redundancy protection cover.

Peter Lloyd, managing director of Security Pacific, an underwriter specialising in this cover, said: "Redundancy-only cover would be cheaper but most underwriters

scheme it underwrites for John Charcol. Mr Checkley said the cost of the monthly premium payment protection plan was £5.90 per £100, up from £4.50 per £100, the industry average. As a result, Charcol no longer offers the plan, saying borrowers can get a better rate from their lender.

Most lenders will be forced to raise their premiums in the next year if they have not done so already. Nigel Grinstead, a broker at Special Risks Services, which arranges underwriting for lenders, said: "The going rate today is £5 to £6 per £100 whereas it was £4 to £5 12 months ago."

As well as raising premiums, insurers are starting to reduce the length of time for which the benefit pays out. Eagle Star, which underwrites payment protection plans for lenders including the Bradford & Bingley and Nottingham building societies, said it had cut payout times from 24 months to 12 on some new policies.

Eagle Star said: "In this sort of economy, there are going to be a lot of people claiming for 24 months so there is a lot of pressure to reduce the payout time to 12 months."

## Deals avoid loss of property

By LINDSAY COOK  
MONEY EDITOR

**M**ORTGAGE payers facing dramatic reductions in their circumstances should not assume that they will automatically lose their properties. Lenders are negotiating special deals to keep people in their homes as the number in arrears continues to rise.

In one case, a borrower with payments of £500 a month was allowed to pay £90 until he resolves his problems. Many others find that their lenders, anxious not to repossess, will accept half payments and will sometimes add arrears to the mortgage debt.

Many borrowers who have lost their jobs may be able to have their mortgage interest paid by the social security department.

This week, a report funded by the Bank of England disclosed that one in 12 borrowers is behind with their payments and that the number of repossessions at the end of March was double that for the same period last year. The official arrears and repossession statistics from the Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML) for the first six months of this year will show an increase.

The council had appealed to the government to pay full mortgage interest payments for the first 16 weeks of unemployment to people qualifying for income support, but this has been turned

down. After 16 weeks claimants can get the full mortgage interest, usually paid to them direct. Lenders want to change this procedure.

The council is continuing talks with the social security department in an attempt to persuade it to notify lenders when income support is paid to meet mortgage interest payments.

Adrian Coles, director of external affairs at CML, said: "What we would like to see is direct payment of income support to lenders in the same way as housing benefit is paid to local authorities for rent."

"Failing that, we would like the DSS to notify mortgage lenders when income support is paid to cover mortgage payments. If the money was not handed over for one or even two months, we would then like to have an automatic system which would pay the money to the lenders."

At Abbey National, Bob Bridgman, head of mortgage services, said: "If someone receiving income support to pay their mortgage gets a red reminder for their gas or electricity bill they will pay it. It has much more urgency than a phonecall from their building society."

Some benefit offices pay money directly to lenders with claimants' permission, but this is at the local office's discretion and is little used.

Mr Bridgman said that the Abbey National was happy to accept half interest

payments for the first 16 weeks from someone receiving income support, if it knew the circumstances. The bank might also accept similarly reduced payments from people who did not qualify for income support.

"We try to come to some arrangement to keep the payments going. We will look at what they can actually afford to pay. In some instances if they cannot pay off the arrears, these are put into abeyance until the end of the loan," he said.

"Whatever stage arrears have reached, we will see if we can help. Even after a court order we can come to an arrangement. Less than half the orders result in the home being repossessed."

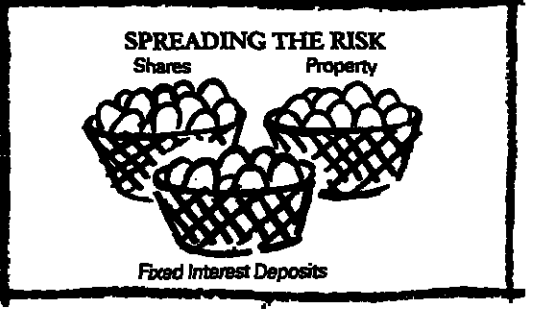
At the Halifax Building Society, Sam Gracie, controller of lending operations, said that the society understood the pressures borrowers faced to clear several small bills instead of paying their mortgage with income support payments.

"I feel quite strongly about such payments. They are made specifically for mortgage payments and should be used for that," he said.

Chris Herbert, the Mortgage Corporation's marketing director, said it knew of 200 borrowers receiving income support. The centralised lender would let borrowers pay much less than they owed each month to keep the mortgage running. He said: "They must appreciate, though, that the arrears have to be paid off when their circumstances improve."

## How to accumulate wealth without the worry.

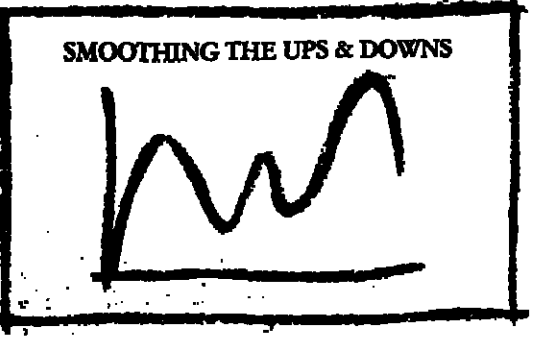
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Sick with the security of the building society and face the possibility of inflation eroding the value of their savings over time. Or seek potentially higher returns from equity investment but suffer potentially higher risks.

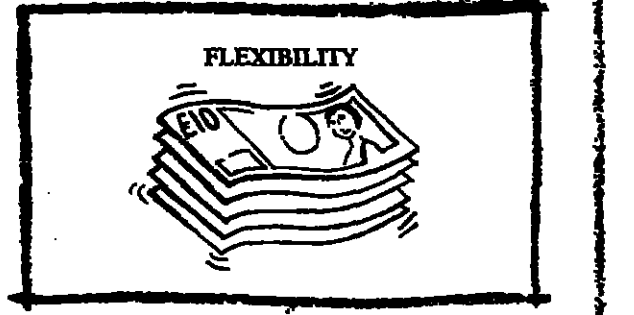
The Equitable With-Profits Regular Savings Plan can help resolve this dilemma. By investing in a spread of shares, property and fixed interest deposits, the risk is reduced and a secure, well balanced fund results.



Even though market prices vary daily the with-profits system smooths out variations in earnings and asset values usually associated with

such portfolios, so wide short-term fluctuations in fund values are eliminated. The with-profits system will, of course, reflect the underlying trend of investment returns.

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Before you look to your future, look to our past.







## Hundreds may miss out on investor compensation

By BARBARA ELLIS

HUNDREDS of investors who lost millions when their financial advisers defaulted are discovering they will receive nothing from the investors' compensation scheme (ICS), even though they parted with their money after December 18, 1986, the starting date for cover named by the High Court last week.

Lawyers and investor representatives say that anyone who entrusted money to financial services firms or people before August 28, 1988, when the compensation scheme began, should consider cashing in or relocating assets in order to secure cover. They say that even people who handed over money on the "right" side of the earlier date may be barred from compensation by the restrictive terms of the court ruling.

Neither lawyers nor regulators, however, were able to fully assess the implications of the judgment this week, as a transcript of court tapes was not issued until Thursday.

The Securities and Investments Board (SIB) and the compensation scheme made attempts at reassurance. An SIB representative tried to discourage investors from withdrawing investments made before December 18, 1986, and then reinvesting.

"Advisers are already having a difficult time, and that would cause a lot of administrative work," said a spokeswoman. She thought it unlikely that advisers would wish to offer such "bed and breakfasting" of investments free of charge in order to help clients achieve cover.

A compensation scheme



PAULA YOUNG

spokesman said that some people who had invested before the December 18, 1986, cut-off date might be able to claim. He went on, however, to outline complex rulings over how much could be claimed and in what circumstances, and made it clear that if the ruling stood it could equally bar some claims from people who had handed over money after the cut-off date.

The key date was not necessarily the day on which money had been invested, but the date the failed firm had incurred a liability to the investor.

The court ruled also that the scheme should apply only to investment business after the

date when investment business was first legally defined (December 18, 1986). This restriction seems likely to catch people who bought completely fake investments, such as the "bonds" issued by Denis Dale-Greaves.

David Pine, of Alexander Tatham, the Manchester solicitor specialising in investor protection, said other victims would be the hundreds of Hamilton House clients who lost £3 million. They had bought worthless property bonds and other certificates that would not rank as investments.

The scheme spokesman said that the SIB and the scheme would have to consider the judgment carefully

before issuing any instructions to investors.

Mr Pine said that if the SIB was not able to tell investors when they were covered, they would have to consider taking their money out of the custody of firms they had been dealing with since before the cut-off date in order to establish a new investment date.

Mr Pine said that if Mrs Lynda Kelsey, the representative investor in the court hearing, did not wish to appeal against the ruling, it was open to other investors to do so. SIB has yet to decide whether it will pay for an investor appeal.

Toby Micklethwaite, of the private Association of Investors, is offering unequivocal advice: "Bed and don't break fast. Take your money away from Fimbria (Financial Intermediaries Managers and Brokers Regulatory Association) members and use banks, solicitors, stockbrokers and accountants instead."

## Pep holders miss out on rights

By SARA MCCONNELL

HOLDERS of Lloyds Bank personal equity plans (Peps) cannot take up rights issues on shares held within a plan, even if they have sufficient funds in their Pep to be able to do so, because the bank's computers cannot handle the administration.

A Lloyds spokeswoman said: "We haven't got the systems to be able to offer rights issues. We sell the rights ourselves and give the money to investors. They don't lose out financially, but they lose out by not holding the shares within the Pep."

She added that it was "on the agenda to allow people to take up rights issues" when the bank had developed a new software system.

The number of rights issues is increasing because companies feeling the pinch of the recession need to raise more money from their shareholders. Pep investors are allowed to take up rights issues in the same way as any other shareholders and hold them within a plan as long as this does not take them over the £5,000 annual limit. Shares taken up as a rights issue will be free of income and capital gains tax like other Pep holdings.

Changes in the last Budget mean that Pep holders can no longer receive tax breaks if they take up rights issues that push them above the Pep limit. They can still take up rights issues of shares in a Pep and hold them outside the plan.

Major Patrick Legge, of Devon, a Lloyds Bank Choice Pep holder, was keen to take up the J Sainsbury £489 million rights issue announced this month. He was told by Lloyds he could not, although he had enough money in the Pep to take the rights. J Sainsbury is offering shareholders one new share for every ten held at 312p each.

Major Legge said: "It is absolute nonsense for Lloyds to say their computers can't cope. As their Pep portfolios grow, serious investors want to switch their portfolio around to make sure they get the best protection against tax." He added that investors would probably be interested in taking up rights issues, like this week's Trafalgar House offer.

Lloyds said: "It is not that

simple. Say we have 10,000 people with Sainsbury's shares. They don't all have the same amount of shares. We would have to write to each one asking if they want to take up the rights. The Lloyds Pep is a mass market product and we have a lot of planholders."

Lloyds Bank Pep Managers says it will be writing to Major Legge to explain its position on rights issues.

The bank has 65,000 plans and £400 million under

management. The Choice Pep allows investors to choose their own stocks from the FT-SE 100 index. Investors can put a minimum of £25 a month in multiples of £5 into the Choice Pep, or a initial minimum lump sum of £300 up to £6,000 a year.

There is a one-off charge of £20 and a quarterly management fee of 0.25 per cent of the value of the plan payable in arrears. The minimum charge on the Choice plan is £7.50.

### INTEREST RATES ROUND UP

	Nominal rate	Compounded at 25% rate	40%	May/June investment £	Notice	Contact
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#### BANKS

Ordinary Dep A/c Typical	2.83	2.86	2.12	none/home	7 day	
Fixed Term Deposits:						
Barclays	8.51	8.51	7.13	25,000-50,000	1 min	071-628 1587
Lloyds	8.25	8.25	6.80	25,000-50,000	3 min	071-625 1587
Midland	7.07	7.07	5.86	2,500-no max	1 min	Local Branch
West	7.22	7.22	5.78	2,500-no max	6 min	Local Branch
Wentworth	7.22	7.22	5.85	10,000-no max	3 min	0742 529855
Wentworth	7.21	7.21	5.85	10,000-no max	3 min	0742 529855
Wentworth	7.21	7.21	5.85	10,000-24,000	6 min	071-728 1000

#### HIGH INTEREST CHEQUE ACCOUNTS

Bank of Scotland MMC	7.23	7.48	5.98	2,500	none	031-442 7777
Barclays	6.56	6.72	5.38	2,500	none	0804 252891
Co-operative	3.00	3.00	2.40	1,000	none	071 625 9543
Ulster	4.53	4.53	4.20	1,000	none	051 368 2076
Wentworth	2.83	2.83	2.12	1,000	none	0272 433272
Wentworth	5.81	5.81	4.71	2,000	none	0742 529855
Wentworth	5.00	5.14	4.91	500	none	071-374 3374
Wentworth	6.83	7.00	5.80	2,500	none	031-556 8555
Wentworth	5.81	5.81	4.65	2,000	none	071-820 6000

#### BUILDING SOCIETIES

Ordinary Share A/c	5.25	5.25	4.20	1 min	none	
Best buy - largest access:						
Barclays	8.25	8.25	6.80	500 min	none	
Barclays	8.19	8.19	7.35	2,500 min	none	
Barclays	8.19	8.19	7.35	25,000 min	30 day	
Barclays	8.19	8.19	7.35	10,000 min	30 day	
Barclays	8.19	8.19	7.35	10,000 min	30 day	
Barclays	8.19	8.19	7.35	10,000 min	30 day	
Barclays	8.19	8.19	7.35	10,000 min	30 day	
Barclays	8.19	8.19	7.35	10,000 min	30 day	
Barclays	8.19	8.19	7.35	10,000 min	30 day	

#### Cash/Cheque Accounts

Barclays	3.83	3.83	3.06	50 min	none	Rates rise
Barclays	4.15	4.15	3.30	25 min	with larger	
Barclays	1.88	1.88	1.50	1 min	balances	

#### NATIONAL SAVINGS

Ordinary A/c	5.00	5.00	3.00	5-10,000	8 day	041-849-4555
Investment A/c	11.00	11.00	8.25	2,500-10,000	1 min	041-849-4555
Investment A/c	11.75	11.75	8.25	2,000-25,000	3 min	0253 08151
Investment A/c	11.75	11.75	8.25	2,000-25,000	3 min	041-849-4555
Investment A/c	11.75	11.75	8.25	2,000-25,000	3 min	041-849-4555
Investment A/c	11.75	11.75	8.25	2,000-25,000	3 min	041-849-4555
Investment A/c	11.75	11.75	8.25	2,000-25,000	3 min	041-849-4555
Investment A/c	11.75	11.75	8.25	2,000-25,000	3 min	041-849-4555
Investment A/c	11.75	11.75	8.25	2,000-25,000	3 min	041-849-4555
Investment A/c	11.75	11.75	8.25	2,000-25,000	3 min	041-849-4555

#### GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

Alfred	9.25	9.25	7.99	50,000 min	1 yrs	Figures from
Alfred	9.25	9.25	7.99	50,000 min	2 yrs	Figures from
Alfred	9.25	9.25	7.99	50,000 min	3 yrs	Figures from
Alfred	9.25	9.25	7.99	50,000 min	4 yrs	Figures from
Alfred	9.25	9.25	7.99	50,000 min	5 yrs	Figures from

#### FIRST TIME BUYERS

Lender	Interest Rate %	Loan Size	Max %	Notes
Barclays	10.95	£15,001-50K	95	After 1.5% discount for one year
Barclays	10.20	£50K+	95	After 2% discount for one year
Barclays	10.95	negotiable	95	Rates fixed for one year. Endowment only

#### BANKS

Lloyds	10.70	to 100K	95	Endowment & Pension only to 31.3.92
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#### OTHER (INSURANCE COMPANY)

Save & Prosper	11.85	£15-35K	95	After 1% reduction for 1st year
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Source: City's Guide Ltd. Financial Information Providers 0755 880042

### A PENSION PLAN WITH PRIVATE PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT

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SAVE & PROSPER

# The Fidelity PEP

FROM THE WORLD'S INVESTMENT MANAGER



All around the world, over 200 Fidelity fund managers and analysts seek out the best opportunities for long-term results. Here in the UK, our investment experts make over 600 company contacts each year to find the most attractive stocks for our investors.

Your PEP is only as good as the investment behind it. Only the Fidelity PEP is backed by the investment expertise of the world's largest independent fund management organisation. Don't settle for less!

You can currently invest up to £6,000 a year in a Personal Equity Plan and pay no income tax on dividends - whatever your tax bracket, and no capital gains tax - no matter how great your returns. And with Fidelity you get much more!

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Looking to boost your income? With interest rates down, keeping your money in a building society is looking less rewarding. There is an alternative. The Fidelity Income PEP is designed to

produce inflation-beating income plus capital growth - tax-free.

Your first £3,000 goes into Fidelity Income Plus Unit Trust, whose objective is to invest in high yielding UK stocks and shares. It has provided a rising income every year since its launch in 1980.

### Talk to Fidelity Now!

For more details about the Fidelity PEP, talk to your Independent Financial Adviser. Callfree Fidelity InvestorLine on 0800 414191 (we're available from 9am to 9pm, 7 days a week) or return the coupon.

Callfree 0800 414191

To Fidelity Investments, PO Box 88, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 9DZ. Please send me the full 1991/92 Fidelity PEP pack.

Full Name Mr/Mrs/Miss \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please print name)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Tel. No. \_\_\_\_\_

Post Code \_\_\_\_\_

**Fidelity Investments**

# JAPAN

## NO SERIOUS INVESTOR SHOULD IGNORE ITS GROWTH POTENTIAL

The Japanese economy has been an impressive performer for over 4 decades. It has grown quite phenomenally and, even during the current world recession Japan's rate of economic growth is expected to be over 3% by the end of 1991 - one of the highest in the world.

Added to this, inflation is expected to fall within the next four months close to 2% and experts believe there is scope for cuts in both short and long term interest rates.

The long term performance of the Japanese stock market has also been impressive. And although it had a sharp fall last year, and has suffered some recent turbulence, it is making a strong recovery.

We believe that Japan looks set to come out of the world recession faster and more dynamically than the other major economies of the world.

Certainly it is an opportunity that no serious investor should ignore and Save & Prosper Japan Growth Fund could be a well established way of tapping the undoubted potential Japan offers.

### REWARDING INVESTORS WELL

Save & Prosper Japan Growth Fund was launched over 20 years ago and was one of the first ever UK authorised unit trusts to invest exclusively in Japan.

Save & Prosper is part of Flemings, and is able to call on the Far East expertise of associate company, Jardine Fleming. Flemings are an international investment management group who currently manage over £27 billion worldwide.

Since its launch the Fund has rewarded investors well. The table opposite shows the value of £1,000 invested in Japan Growth Fund over various periods to 25th June 1991 with the average annual growth rate of each.

Years to	£1,000 invested*	Average annual growth rate
5	£1,250	4.5%
10	£3,825	14.4%
15	£6,800	13.6%
20	£16,935	15.2%

\*Offer to bid, with net income reinvested

CALL FREE 0800 282 101

9.00 a.m. - 5.30 p.m. ● 7 DAYS A WEEK

JAPAN-GROWTH-FUND

To: Save & Prosper Group Limited, FREEPOST, Romford RM1 1BR.

Please send me details about Japan Growth Fund I would also like details of investing monthly ☐ exchanging shares I already hold for an investment in Japan Growth ☐

Mr/Ms/Miss \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Home Tel (STD Code) \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Work Tel (STD Code) \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

THE PRICE OF UNITS AND THE INCOME FROM THEM MAY GO DOWN AS WELL AS UP. PAST PERFORMANCE IS NOT A GUARANTEE OF FUTURE SUCCESS. FOREIGN EXCHANGE FLUCTUATIONS CAN HAVE AN EFFECT ON THE VALUE OF YOUR INVESTMENT. SAVE & PROSPER GROUP LTD. IS A MEMBER OF INRO AND LAUTRO

### LONG TERM GROWTH LOOKS GOOD

Japan's long term growth looks assured; exports are already up 8% year on year and growing. This in turn is likely to provide an additional boost to GNP with companies in the electrical and high technology sectors standing to benefit most.

New product development has always been one of Japan's strengths and now is no exception. Companies like Canon, Mitsubishi, Nissan, Hitachi and Toshiba have invested heavily in research and, with a new generation of many familiar digital products on the way, are well placed to take advantage of what could be a technology boom similar to that of the 80's.

### WHY YOU SHOULD ACT NOW

We believe that Japan offers the serious investor an opportunity that should not be ignored. And, as the yen continues to strengthen against sterling any returns made on your investment over the next 12 months could be enhanced by currency gains, which we believe could be as much as 10-15% for investors who act now.

### 1% BONUS

And if we receive your investment no later than 26th July 1991 you will get a bonus of 1% EXTRA UNITS FREE on lump sum investments of £3,000 and over.

You can invest in Save & Prosper's Japan Growth Fund with a lump sum of just £1,000, or save regularly from as little as £35 a month.

Talk to your financial adviser, fill in the coupon for more information or call us free on 0800 282 101.

1% BONUS  
UNITS AVAILABLE TIL  
26th July

**SAVE & PROSPER**  
THE INVESTMENT HOUSE



# Read it and weep.

Tears of joy or tears of frustration, depending of course on whether or not you've already started a Martin Currie Investment Trust Savings Plan.

If you have, you'll know that it's a simple, flexible, low cost way for individual investors to share in the greater performance of stocks and shares.

If you haven't, blow your nose and examine the table again. Impressive isn't it? Particularly when you consider the Martin Currie Savings Plan is specifically designed to make it easy for the private investor to buy shares in a range of UK and overseas companies through an investment trust.

With all the advantages of risk diversification,

professional management and excellent returns, it's hardly surprising that more people are turning to investment trusts to make their savings work harder.

For as little as £20 a

month or a minimum of £200 in a lump sum you can invest in any of the four trusts in the Plan.

## Savings Plan Comparison

	1981	1991
Average Martin Currie Investment Trust	£1,000	£6,484*
Average Investment Trust	£1,000	£5,189**
Average Building Society Higher Rate Account	£1,000	£2,191**

month or a minimum of £200 in a lump sum you can invest in any of the four trusts in the Plan.

each with distinct investment objectives. Whether you want long-term capital

cost to you is stamp duty (0.5%). With all these advantages, shouldn't investors be considering our Savings Plan? You can find out how easy it is to share in the perfor-

mance of the Martin Currie Savings Plan by sending for our free brochure today.

Please remember that the value of

shares and the income from them can fall as well as rise and an investor may not get back the amount invested. The past is not necessarily a guide to the future.

Please complete and return this coupon to:  
Jane Iremode, Martin Currie Investment Management Limited,  
29 Chancery Square,  
Edinburgh EH2 4HA or  
phone her on 031 225 3411.

Please send me further information and application forms.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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## BRIEFINGS

**BORROWERS** taking out a loan of £50,000 or more with Lloyds Bank after Monday will receive a percentage point discount on the standard rate of 12.45 per cent until September 30, 1992. First-time buyers will receive a 1.75 point discount for the same period. To qualify, borrowers must take out a Lloyds Bank or Black Horse pension or endowment mortgage. Borrowers taking out a new pension or endowment mortgage will receive half a point discount.

□ The Chelsea Building Society is offering a 1.3 point discount on its standard rate of 12.45 per cent for a year, available on mortgages of £30,000 and above that do not exceed 80 per cent of the purchase price.

□ The North of England Building Society has a mortgage rate fixed at 10.95 per cent until October 31, 1993.

□ The Newcastle Building Society has a fixed rate mortgage of 10.5 per cent until September 30, 1992.

□ A trust investing in stock markets of developing countries was launched this week by Fleming Investment Trust Management. The minimum investment will be £1,500 and the offer closes at 10am on July 10. Investors will be able to transfer up to £6,000 worth of shares into a Fleming's Personal Equity Plan (Pep).

□ Gartmore is aiming to raise £30 million with its split capital investment trust, which will be open to public subscription for 14 days from July 9. The Scotland Investment Trust will invest about half of its portfolio in FT-SE 100 shares and up to 30 per cent in smaller companies. The minimum investment is £600. Investors will be able to transfer up to £6,000 of shares to a Pep.

□ Murray Johnstone wants to raise £17.5 million with a split capital trust. The fund will invest in blue chip shares and will have a seven-year life.

□ A loan facility has been launched to help Lloyd's names needing financial help to meet underwriting losses. The CALL scheme is available from Grimston Scott, a London broker.

## Bank tactics are to collect fast and pay slowly

From Mr John S. Wheeler  
Sir, As joint executor for my mother's estate I have now supplied her bank with the death certificate, the grant of probate and a letter signed by both executors of her estate. Not enough, Barclays have now written telling me that they need to know the names of the branches of their bank to which each of the executors can report "to identify themselves". The closing balance is less than £400.

Bank behaviour is clearly founded on delaying tactics:

collect fast and pay out slowly. In looking after themselves they have lost sight of the customer altogether. Despite the fact that my mother and father banked with the same branch of Barclays for half a century, no one in the bank has yet had the courtesy to say they are sorry to hear that my mother has died.

In dealing with this estate I have found that banks and building societies are all cast in the same mould. They all have different ways of making life difficult, ranging from

apparently haphazard procedures to pompous letters which fail to answer the question put to them. So far, only the Halifax Building Society is emerging with any credit. The rest deserve to suffer declining profits; the pay of it is that they drag the rest of us with them.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN S. WHEELER,  
Sutton Passes,  
8 Sandmartin Lane,  
Norton,  
Stockton-on-Tees, Cleveland.

"I trust that my refund will exceed the cost of postage to my pen-pal at Centre!"



## Frustrating time with the tax office

From Mrs Sylvia Hartnell-Beavis  
Sir, How I wish I dealt with Mrs Michael Abbott's tax office (Weekend Money letters, June 22). I, too, have a small pension (£130 per annum) and we transferred our investments into my name last year to maximise the benefits of separate taxation.

I informed Centre 1 at East Kilbride and they said they would send me a tax return in April 1991. They didn't.

I thought they would send it in April 1991. They didn't; so I wrote giving a full list of my income - state pension on my husband's insurance, my own small pension and the investment income. They replied, asking for dividend counterfoils and a P60 from the pension fund.

The pension fund had not sent a P60, but, on May 4, I sent the counterfoils showing

tax credits of £130, and hoped they would accept that no one would cheat on £130 a year pension. On June 12, my P60 arrived and I forwarded it immediately. On June 22, the tax office asked me, once more, to send my dividend counterfoils!

Maybe I am getting a little less patient with each letter that I write, but I feel enormous frustration at having to spend so much time and postage to reclaim what must seem to them a small sum, but which is, in effect, half my personal income.

It may be July before I can bank my tax refund. Into whose account does the interest go during this delay? Yours faithfully,  
SYLVIA HARTNELL-BEAVIS,  
Chapel Lane Cottage,  
Blackford,  
Yeovil,  
Somerset.

## Cleared to balance the account

From R. H. Johnson  
Sir, When making a balance enquiry from my "listening" bank I was given a print-out which showed the "ledger" balance, the "cleared" balance and the "available" balance of my personal current account. The "cleared" balance enabled me to make a calculation of the amount which I could safely draw without the risk of attracting the punitive charges that banks levy on overdrawn accounts.

Hooray! I thought, the "listening" bank is listening to its customers. Alas, my joy was shortlived. When I next made a balance enquiry I was given a balance which included a proviso that recent credits may not yet be cleared and may not be available to be drawn against.

When I asked for my "cleared" balance I was first told that it was not known; next that I would not understand it; lastly, that it was a

mistake to have given me the print-out showing the information, as it was confidential!

What can be the reason behind this curious situation? Could it be that the bank chooses to keep its unwary customers in ignorance, and thus increase the possibility of imposing charges?

So, beware! Your "listening" bank could be listening to their computer print-outs, happily charging hapless customers, rather than listening to customers' needs. Yours faithfully,  
R. H. JOHNSON,  
1 Pine Drive,  
Ingatstone, Essex.

□ Letters are welcomed, but *The Times* regrets it cannot give individual replies or advice. No legal responsibility can be accepted for advice or statements in these columns and independent professional advice should be sought.

## For some real investment power switch to SIT



At Scottish Investment Trust we get high returns for our stockholders and have done so for over 100 years. Now, through STOCKPLAN, our savings and investment scheme, individual investors with as little as £25 per month or a minimum lump sum of £250 can get that power working for them.

What is more, as we make no charges\* and you pay no commissions on your investment, more of your money goes to work for you, further increasing the potential for income and capital growth.

STOCKPLAN is the ideal vehicle for everyone interested in having a diversified portfolio of international equities. Over the long term such a portfolio has proved to be a fine investment. £1,000 invested in SIT over the 10 years to 30 April 1991 would have grown to £4,654, an increase of over 365%.

SIT is one of the world's largest independent investment trusts with assets of nearly £600 million, this could be the time to get SIT's investment power working for you.

Please note that share prices can fall as well as rise and there is no guarantee for the future.

**SCOTTISH INVESTMENT TRUST PLC**

**STOCKPLAN**

To obtain a brochure and application form return this coupon today to:  
Alan P. Jeffrey, SIT Savings Ltd, FREEPOST, 6 Albany Place, Edinburgh EH2 0DH or telephone 031 225 7781

Name (BLOCK CAPITALS please): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

## Portfolio PLATINUM

For readers who may have missed a copy of *The Times* this week, we repeat below the week's Portfolio price changes (today's are on page 29).

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
1	+8	-2	+4	-5	+4		
2	+5	-1	+1	-3	+3		
3	+6	-3	+4	-3	+7		
4	+9	-3	+3	-3	+3		
5	+7	-2	+4	-4	+5		
6	+4	-2	+1	-2	+2		
7	+3	-3	+1	-3	+2		
8	+9	-3	+3	-5	+4		
9	+8	-4	+6	-4	+7		
10	+2	-4	+2	-3	+2		
11	+2	-4	+2	-3	+2		
12	+7	-3	+5	-4	+6		
13	+3	-5	+1	-4	+2		
14	+4	-2	+1	-2	+3		
15	+8	-4	+3	-6	+4		
16	+5	-4	+4	-5	+6		
17	+9	-2	+4	-5	+4		
18	+5	-3	+5	-5	+5		
19	+5	-1	+2	-3	+2		
20	+7	-4	+2	-4	+3		
21	+5	-3	+6	-4	+6		
22	+4	-1	+1	-2	+2		
23	+3	-3	+2	-4	+4		
24	+4	-3	+1	-4	+1		
25	+8	-2	+3	-4	+5		
26	+6	-2	+5	-3	+6		
27	+2	-5	+1	-2	+2		
28	+3	-2	+1	-3	+3		
29	+7	-3	+2	-5	+3		
30	+3	-2	+2	-3	+2		
31	+7	-2	+5	-4	+6		
32	+5	-3	+1	-4	+2		
33	+3	-4	+2	-3	+3		
34	+8	-3	+3	-5	+4		
35	+9	-3	+2	-5	+5		
36	+4	-4	+3	-2	+1		
37	+4	-3	+1	-4	+1		
38	+3	-4	+3	-2	+2		
39	+6	-3	+6	-5	+6		
40	+2	-4	+1	-3	+1		
41	+7	-4	+4	-6	+5		
42	+6	-3	+4	-3	+7		
43	+5	-4	+2	-4	+3		
44	+4	-2	+2	-3	+2		

## MAKING YOUR MONEY WORK HARDER

Ask for our free booklet that tells you how. Ring our free Moneyline from 9.00 a.m. - 5.30 p.m. 7 days a week, on

0800 282 101

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Spending sprees may trigger phone check

# Barclaycard swoops on fraud

By LINDSAY COOK  
MONEY EDITOR

BARCLAYCARD users going on spending sprees at the summer sales could be on the receiving end of mysterious telephone calls from Northampton when they arrive home. The callers will ask them if they have been shopping and how much they have spent.

This is Barclaycard's latest weapon in the war against credit card thieves. Between 200 and 300 customers of Britain's biggest credit card company are telephoned every day as part of its new Fraudwatch scheme, costing £1 million this year.

Introduced on June 19, it uses a computer programme developed with Touche Ross, the accountant, to analyse all Barclaycard authorisations and sales vouchers to check for changes in the spending patterns of customers.

Such sudden and uncharacteristic increases in spending may indicate that a card has been stolen, often without the cardholder realising it. If a customer does not answer the home or work telephone number listed on the Barclaycard computer, the company will try to make contact by teletext.

On Wednesday morning this week, such checks revealed four frauds, said Barry Fergus, project director.

"We can put a block on the card so that if the person attempts to use it again we can attempt to recover it and prevent further spending," Mr Fergus said.

In two of the cases this morning the cards were stolen and the cardholder did not know until they checked.

Most card thieves try to buy wine, spirits and other items that are easy to resell, such as televisions, toasters or microwaves. If they use the card over several days, they run a high risk of being caught.

Another initiative by Barclaycard involves altering the "floor limits", the amount



On guard: Barclaycard's Barry Fergus, who is leading the fraud clampdown

that can be spent using a card without a telephone authorisation. The scheme started two months ago and already involves 27 of Barclaycard's largest retailers, with another three about to join. For some stores, floor limits have been lowered in all shops in the chain. Other groups have lower limits in stores in problem areas - mainly big cities.

In Britain, 18 per cent of credit card transactions require authorisation by the card company. This compares with 80 per cent in America and 6 per cent in France, which has the lowest fraud experience.

"We are looking to push up the number of authorisations selectively," said Mr Fergus. Microwaves are particularly

popular purchases with stolen cards, he said. One bank was now insisting on authorisations for all microwaves and has reduced its fraud losses as a result.

Staff in stores and banks are trained to spot suspicious card users. Rewards are paid when a card is retained. This costs £4 million a year. These rewards are usually £67 a time, although more can be paid.

The sum is intended to work out at £50, after the Inland Revenue began taxing such awards last year.

One Barclays' staff member called the company's fraud prevention unit on Wednesday when the signature of a "customer" did not agree with the one on the card. The counter clerk was asked to

obtain the person's full name and asked how old he appeared to be. Meanwhile, another member of the unit telephoned the cardholder's home to see if he was there and another fished out the original application form.

Every single one of the 12 million applications forms received by Barclaycard since it began operating 25 years ago today, is stored so that the information given can be retrieved.

The customer with the suspicious signature gave part of the cardholder's name and then left the bank branch leaving the card behind.

Fraud accounts for 0.2 per cent of Barclaycard's turnover. Last year, the total amount lost was £25.8 million.

## Fund managers look to future in Hong Kong

By RUPERT BRUCE

HONG KONG may soon be facing a turning point. For investors and Far East funds holding stocks in Hong Kong and its booming neighbours, there should be the reminder of political risk.

The immediate problem is a deadlock in talks between Hong Kong and China over the Crown colony's new airport and the likely postponement of the £8 billion development.

Instead of boosting confidence and the economy as the government had intended, before handing over to Chinese rule in 1997, the proposed development is creating uncertainty.

While six years is a long time, Hong Kong's barometer of confidence, the stock market, has been hit by the dispute and fallen 8 per cent in just over a month.

Andrew Hunt, group economist for Thornton Investment Management, said: "China's uncertainty affects investment in Hong Kong. There is a natural incentive to get payback before 1997." By that he means companies investing in Hong Kong plan to obtain at least their initial investment back before 1997.

Funds investing in the region have been the star performers of recent years. Far East unit trusts have grown by an average of 64 per cent over the past three years, while the average unit trust growth has been 17 per cent, according to Micropal. There is now £1.5 billion invested in Far East trusts with no exposure to Japan.

Tempted by cheap labour, land and raw materials, the Japanese have used the more stable countries of East Asia as chief manufacturing bases. The economies have boomed and gross domestic product growth rates of up to

10 per cent have been common.

The Hong Kong stock market is the largest easily accessible market in the region and so is vitally important. The market is the easiest place to buy and sell shares in bulk and most regional unit trusts invest at least 30 per cent to 40 per cent of their money there. Since postponement of the airport became likely, the Hang Seng index has fallen from a high of just above 3,900 to just above 3,600.

A report published last week by Political and Economic Risk, the consultancy group, has given a warning that Hong Kong is facing a serious erosion in confidence. The report says that uncertainty has never been so great.

Hugh Young, a director of Abnert Holdings and manager of the Far East Emerging Communities unit trust, said: "The airport was a way, as far as I could see, for the British government to deplete the coffers of Hong Kong by introducing a massive infrastructure development. There were also rumours that a large chunk of the construction contract would be given to British companies."

"I think it is understandable the Chinese have said we would like to have a better look at this. From a Chinese point of view, I would want to use the money on the mainland."

Also exercising the mind of investment managers is the threat to China's most favoured nation (MFN) low-tariff status in America. There is widespread support in America for making this favourable treatment conditional on improvements in such things as human rights, which might be tantamount to a withdrawal.

The cancellation of China's MFN status would hit Hong Kong's GDP, which is expected to grow at nearly 4 per cent this year, by about 1.5 per cent, according to the government.

For now, however, Mr Hunt is more concerned about the colony's excessive 12.9 per cent inflation. He regards MFN status as likely to remain in place and political problems as difficult to predict.

He said: "To be frank we do not know what will happen post 1997 because we do not know which Chinese leader will be alive then."

## Fidelity awaits lure of cash fund

FIDELITY Investments is hoping that the high rate of return in its cash unit trust on relatively small investments will eventually attract people to put their money into equity-based unit trusts.

The fund requires a minimum investment of £1,000 and actively invests in bank deposits to get the best rates. It currently pays 11.88 per cent gross, or 8.91 per cent net. Both figures are after the deduction of a 0.5 per cent management charge. Withdrawals can be made at a day's notice.

Fidelity is now hoping to encourage some of the investors in the £50 million fund to risk some of the money to the vagaries of world stock markets. Over the long term investors tend to do better with equity investment. Over the past few years, however, the returns from banks and building societies have been much more attractive.

Those who transfer money from the cash fund to another Fidelity unit trust before the end of the year will receive a 1 per cent discount on the initial charge on that fund. If they become nervous of stock markets the money can be transferred back to the cash unit trust at any time. Transfers back to an equity fund would then have a 3 per cent discount on the initial charge.

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## ATHLETICS

British men  
look too  
good for rest  
of Europe

From DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT, FRANKFURT

WHEN Britain's men won the European Cup for the first time two years ago, much was made of the part home advantage played in turning defeat on paper into victory on the track.

Now it is the turn of Germany to have the crowd on its side. What difference will it make? "They've got the crowd, but we've got the athletes," John Regis said. Nobody expects Britain to lose this weekend.

Regis is one of six who will be asked to repeat over today and tomorrow the victories each achieved at Gateshead in 1989. Their collective efforts prised open the grip on the cup that the Soviet Union and East Germany had held for 24 years.

But, besides the burden placed on Linford Christie (100 metres), Regis (200), Tom McKean (800), Colin Jackson (110 hurdles), Kris Akabusi (400 hurdles) and Dalton Grant (high jump) to win now as they did then, so the weight of expectation is on their team colleagues. In theory at least Britain could win every men's track event.

Eamonn Martin has the responsibility of returning maximum points from the first event, the 10,000 metres. Akabusi started the ball rolling two years ago, providing a buoyant tone from the outset, but Martin attempted yesterday to play down his role. "I don't think everyone is going to crack up if I don't win," he said.



Martin: Cup opener

What Dick did not add was that in Gateshead a 14-point paper deficit was turned into victory by 12 points over East Germany. Even leading Soviet and German officials said yesterday that Britain would win.

Britain's women expect to repeat their third place of 1989. Yvonne Murray, in the 3,000 metres, is as likely a winner as any of Britain's men while Sally Gunnell will be a strong challenger for victory in the 400 metres hurdles.

Hammer: P Head, 73.64.  
Javelin: M Hill, 70.02.  
4x100m: 38.05.  
4x400m: 3:04.01.  
Women: 200m: S Douglas, 11.55.  
400m: L Kough, 1:11.81.  
800m: A Williams, 2:01.79.  
1,500m: C Cahill, 4:37.60.  
3,000m: Y Murray, first race.  
10,000m: J Martin, first race.  
100m hurdles: L A Steele, 13.38.  
400m hurdles: S Gunnell, 55.38.  
High jump: D Grant, 2.20.  
Pole vault: A Ashurst, 5.30m.  
Long jump: M Forrester, 7.59m.  
Triple jump: J Hird, 12.84m.  
Shot: P Edwards, 19.24m.  
Discus: K Brown, 59.20.

## BRITISH FORM GUIDE

Best performances by British team this season

100m: L Christie, 10.15w.  
200m: J Regis, 20.53.  
400m: R Black, 1:14.79.  
800m: T McKean, 1:46.05.  
1,500m: P Elliott, 3:44.17.  
5,000m: G Staines, first race.  
10,000m: J Martin, first race.  
3,000m: Y Murray, first race.  
100m hurdles: C Jackson, 13.44.  
400m hurdles: K Akabusi, 48.58.  
High jump: D Grant, 2.20.  
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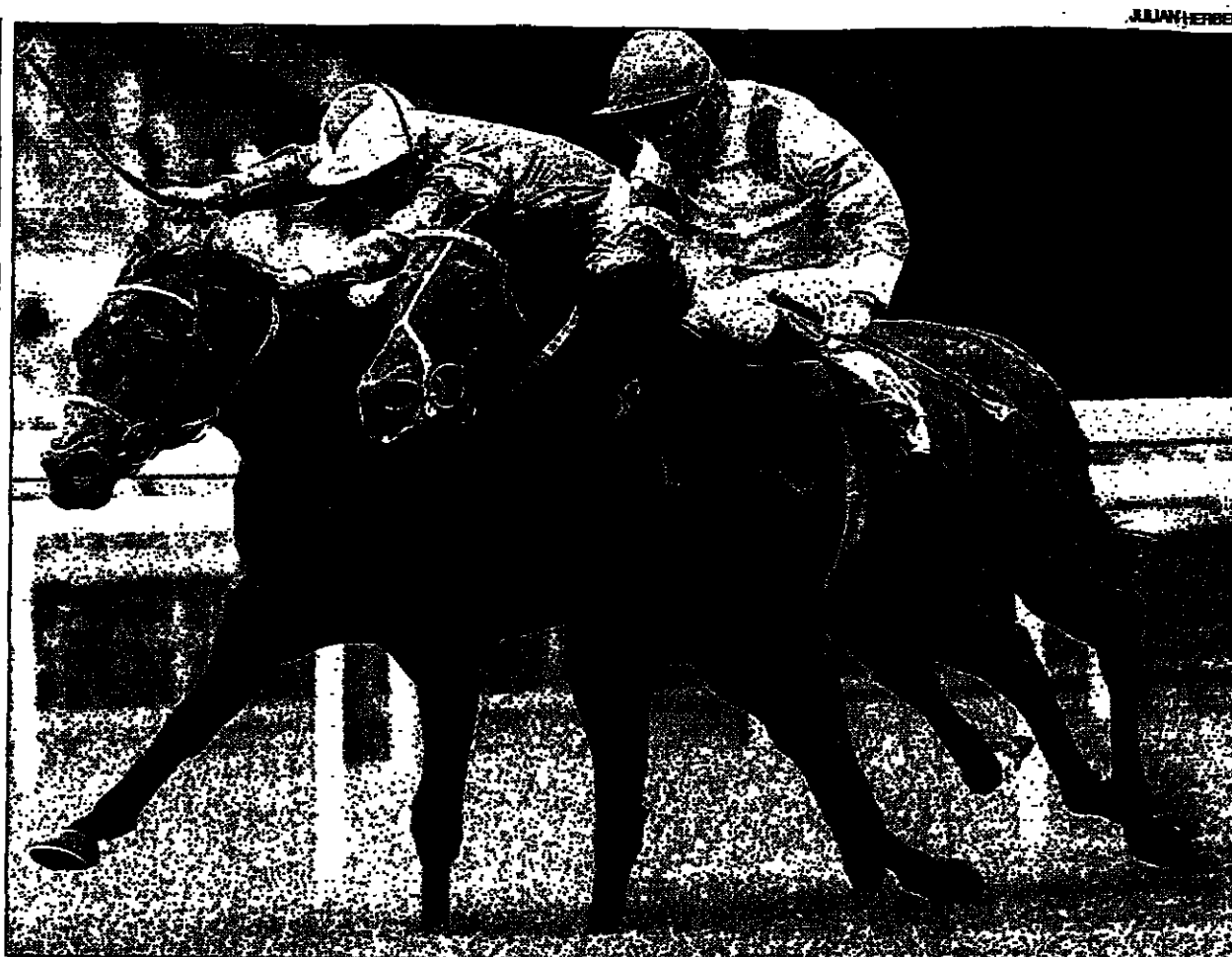
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Abu Hanifah on the rails masters Zandril close home to land the Eden Park Handicap at Newmarket yesterday

## Newmarket feeling the pinch

By RICHARD EVANS

NEWMARKET may be the headquarters of Flat racing but it is feeling the economic pinch every bit as much as some of its less established neighbours.

Despite having 24 of its 31 racing days each year covered by television, worrying gaps are appearing in the list of sponsors for some of the top pattern races staged at the town's two courses.

The problem is not yet acute, but the owners are not good as Nick Lees, clerk of the course, casts his eye over the fixture list for the next two years.

General Accident announced in April that it will cease to sponsor the 1,000 Guineas, 2,000 Guineas and Jockey Club Stakes after 1993, and so end valuable backing of almost a decade. So far, there have been few "nibbles" from potential successors but nothing definite.

The Royal Bank of Scotland has been sponsoring the group two Child Stakes for more than a dozen years but this season's race, to be staged on July 10, will be the last to be run under its banner.

Charles Heidsieck has decided not to renew its sponsorship of the Craven Stakes following its running in April. No new backer has been found for the group three contest. The

Challenge Stakes, a group two race run over seven furlongs in October, has no commercial backing this year.

It is not easy at the moment, Lees said yesterday. "Most of the sponsorship comes through contacts built up over 20 years and my telephone is not ringing quite as much as it used to."

Alhijah had attracted some ante-post support for next year's 2,000 Guineas prior to his debut in the Tatten Development Stakes at Newmarket yesterday.

A glowing home reputation resulted in the John Dunlop-trained juvenile being sent off a

7-4 on favourite, but supporters looked to be in trouble as Willie Carson started scrabbling away three furlongs from home.

River Falls appeared to have the race won coming out of the Dip but Alhijah finally responded to a vigorous ride to snatch an improbable victory in the final strides.

Carson was less impressed with the winner and connections may have to lower their sights a little. "He made hard work of it, didn't he? But his sister (Usayyah) was no good on soft ground and it may have taken his speed away from him today. He can only improve, can't he," the jockey said.

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1.  $\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{2} = \frac{1}{4}$  (the probability of getting two heads)







French Open champion survives his first test on the unfamiliar grass courts of Wimbledon

# Courier finds that fame can be a double-edged sword

By Andrew Longmore  
TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

WHILE his old rival, Andre Agassi, was absorbing the peculiar pressures of the centre court yesterday, Jim Courier survived his first test as French Open champion on the less glamorous court 14, teaching the second round with a straight-set win over Rodolphe Gilbert, of France. But surviving the vagaries of the centre court yesterday, Jim Courier survived his first test as French Open champion on the less glamorous court 14, teaching the second round with a straight-set win over Rodolphe Gilbert, of France. But surviving the vagaries of the centre court yesterday, Jim Courier survived his first test as French Open champion on the less glamorous court 14, teaching the second round with a straight-set win over Rodolphe Gilbert, of France.

After his victory over his old Bollettieri Academy colleague, Agassi, in the final of the French three weeks ago, Courier returned to his home



in Dade City, Florida, only to find that his peace and quiet had been disturbed. Journalists camped on his door, his telephone rang so often he took it off the hook and, like so many before him, life in the public eye suddenly became uncomfortable. Courier's response was at least unusual: he evacuated his home earlier than he had planned and headed straight for the anonymity of Wimbledon.

"There were a lot of things

happening I didn't like, so I came here early," Courier said. "I don't mind the press at all. It's part of the job when I'm working. But I like my privacy and I just wasn't getting the rest that I needed. I was physically and mentally spent after the French."

Like Pete Sampras, who won the US Open so suddenly last September, Courier is finding fame a double-edged sword. "In a sense, it's what I've been shooting for my whole life. You want your private life to remain the same, but it can't. But I think the positives far outweigh the negatives."

Courier is still a relative novice on grass. This is only his third Wimbledon, and to be seeded No. 4 is a burden he could probably do without. Yet he has a sharp serve and volleyed well enough to put paid to the hopes of the left-handed Frenchman, who had beaten Sampras in Key Biscayne earlier in the year.

In the women's singles, Jana Novotna had a convincing win over Nicole Pratt, of Australia, in the first match on centre court, but another Australian, the veteran, Liz Smylie, beat Sandra Cuccini, the No. 15 seed. The win was not altogether surprising because the Italian, a specialist clay-court player, has not won a match at Wimbledon since 1985.

Gianluca Pozzi, from Bari, fared rather better. Playing his first match at Wimbledon at the age of 25, he beat Brad Pearce, last year's quarter-finalist, in four sets. Quite a feather in the Italian's cap.



Grand old man: Connors revived memories of his previous triumphs yesterday

## Play on Sunday being resisted

THE All England Club is not expecting play tomorrow despite being told schedule after the first five days of the tournament (John Goodbody writes). However, it has made emergency preparations should a large number of matches be lost through rain today.

The club has moved the junior tournament to the Bank of England ground thus saving 60 matches which are usually played at Wimbledon. With a series of rain forecasts, the club remains optimistic that it can catch up with the programme without resorting to playing on the first Sunday for the first time in the competition's history.

The club now estimates that it has 520 matches - 120 matches more than is customary at this stage - to play by tomorrow week, the scheduled end of the tournament. Some rain is forecast later today in the London area but the club hopes to have completed a large number of matches by then. Tomorrow's forecast is for more frequent showers.

The first four days have produced the wettest Wimbledon since the competition began in 1877. For the first time, the first round of the men's and women's singles were still being played on the fifth day. Crowds inevitably were down.

## Connors still has hallmark of a thoroughbred

A FRIENDLY Finn with a German mother, two passports, and a name vaguely associated with a golden breed of horses, was beaten 6-2, 6-0, 7-5 at Wimbledon yesterday by a player who will be 39 in September. It was no disgrace, though; the "old man" fond of telling us that age is just a number was Jimmy Connors. You could call Connors the George Foreman of tennis but for the fact that Foreman has long since lost the slim-line torso and boyish hair that Connors has managed to retain.

Veli Paloheimo, aged 23, is no palomino, no horse. Split

up, his name could be translated as an amalgam of "brother", "fire" and "tribe". Early in life, he chose to play tennis rather than ice hockey, but his enthusiasm for the latter game remains almost fanatical. Last year, Paloheimo became the first Finnish professional to be ranked among the world's 50 leading players. Against stiff opposition from distinguished figures in other sports, he was elected athlete of the year in Finland's second city, Tampere.

Connors played six Wimbledon singles finals from 1974 to 1984, winning twice. He has spent so much time at Wimbledon that the stewards think he is on the staff. But bits of him have begun to wear out and he no longer completes full-time. He came to Wimbledon with only six 1991 tournaments behind him and he was given a place in the draw only as an invited "wild card". Some wild card.

Nobody of his age should be asked to do anything violent before lunch as he was yesterday, but his form was impressive. True, Connors was seldom under stress. But

it is difficult to impose stress on a man who consistently hits as hard and as close to the lines as Connors did yesterday. Moreover, his volleying was sharp, his touch sure.

Paloheimo got into the match only in those fleeting periods when Connors went off the ball, mentally. The Finn's response was to loosen up and hit through his shots more freely. Or simply concentrate on keeping the ball in play. Paloheimo could not quite get the mixture right, but he and Connors gave us some crisply designed rallies and had fun together, especially in the third set.

With the future in mind, Connors retires, if he ever does, the Connors of the new generation has already assumed a starring role. Each is his own man and Andre Agassi looks as if he has been dressed by an ill-chosen committee working from the wrong measurements, but in many respects Agassi is another Connors: a hard-hitting, boisterous extrovert conscious of his entertainment value, eager to please and taking pleasure in playing a game for a living. These days, professional tennis is also showbusiness - and Connors and Agassi were made for it.

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### Men's singles

Winner: £240,000  
Runner-up: £120,000  
Holder: S Edberg (Swe)

#### First round

W Farneta (SA) bt J Aguilera (Sp), 6-4, 6-3, 6-3.  
C van Rensburg (SA) bt T Witsken (US), 6-1, 7-6, 6-4.  
H Skoff (Aust) bt G Rauxer (Fr), 6-4, 6-4, 6-4.  
S Stille (Aust) bt M Kitzmann (Aust), 6-7, 6-3, 6-7, 7-6, 6-4.  
G Vassallo (Yug) bt A Castle (GB), 6-4, 3-6, 6-3, 6-0.  
N Brown (GB) bt M Keil (US), 6-4, 7-5, 6-1.  
C Connors (US) bt V Paloheimo (Fin), 6-2, 6-0, 7-5.  
A Krickstein (US) bt S Pescosolido (It), 6-1, 6-4, 6-2, 7-5.  
J Courier (US) bt R Gilbert (Fr), 6-4, 6-2, 7-6.

### Women's singles

Winner: £216,000  
Runner-up: £108,000  
Holder: M Navratilova (US)

#### First round

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D Faber (US) bt C Caverzasio (Switz), 6-3, 6-7, 6-2.  
J Novotna (Cz) bt N Pratt (Aust), 6-3, 6-0.  
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N Provia (Aust) bt S Smith (GB), 3-6, 6-4, 6-2.  
P Probst (Ger) bt E Sviglerova (Cz), 7-6, 7-5.

### Men's doubles

Winner: £120,000  
Runner-up: £60,000  
Holder: J Kriekow (US)

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## England profit

WICKENHAM'S income from the last season was a record £2.5 million, an increase of about £1 million on the previous two years. The upsurge came from the new all-seater North Stand, where the hospitality boxes boosted returns by £1 million, to £1,750,000.

Spectators paid £750,000 to watch each of England's grand slam matches, with another £1 million from the Barbarians and Argentina games, combined. Purchases from the Rugby Union shop were up 50 per cent, to £142,000.

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## Rain reassures in a Summer of Discontent

Laura Thompson

As a sporting accessory, rain went out of fashion a few years ago, but it is now triumphantly back where it belongs, sharing centre stage/court with Andre Agassi's two-ply shorts.

In 1976, we had a freakishly rain-free summer - people rolled up their flares to paddle in the Serpentine, Harold Wilson appointed a minister for drought - but thereafter, the summers of my more extreme youth were heavily peppered with rain. This seasonal seasoning was what gave them much of their interest: one could make many new friends by careful synchronisation of tuts, rueful smiles and remarks like: "Can't believe it, can you?"

There was something trustworthy about our rain. Did Dixon of Dock Green have a sun tan? He did not. No, what our rain told us was that our British summer had not been invaded by foreigners.

Of course, our British sporting summer had been invaded by foreigners. But this was still our territory, topographically if in no other way.

And we attacked Wimbledon and Test matches wearing brightly summer clothes, but clutching an umbrella like an anchor: a firm assurance of Britishness, a reminder that rain could always stop play.

For the last three years, however, rain has been out of fashion. As the reign of Mrs Thatcher reached its climax, so summer at last got the message that slackness and failure to answer to job description would not be tolerated. All those days lost just because summer could not do its work properly! It had to shape up, the party line by painting its skirts on fire and about to explode.

Now, however, as the government has got wetter, so has the summer. Once again we see what we thought never to see again: whole days lost due to industrial action: the Summer of Discontent. Emergency services are being drafted in. Out come the anecdotes from Christine Janes; into the commentary box come anyone famous, the cruel marks of arm-twisting by the Lewis and Lynam press-gang just visible to the trained eye; out peeps Harry Carpenter like Phyllis Dixie from behind a tarpaulin.

"And that's the ah, situation here at Lord's," Tony Lewis says, as water huris

itself at the window behind him. "And that's the rain on the centre court - now let's show you the rain on court one." Desmond Lynam shouts over the sound of the Niagara Falls. A beautifully-mixed cocktail of embarrassment and defiance is being imbibed by the commentators.

They are embarrassed because they are all too aware of the fact that we have been building up these Test matches and tennis tournaments for months; that we have banged on about Lord's and Wimbledon and lovely verdancy; that we have seduced these stately professionals over from Antigua and Guyana and Guyana and Florida; that we are now failing to deliver.

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Wimbledon enraptured as No. 5 seed progresses

## Agassi surfaces again to earn crowd's acclaim

By ANDREW LONGMORE  
TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

THE description was more glitzy Las Vegas than leafy Wimbledon, but the meaning was clear and the exaggeration forgiven. Andre Agassi is pleased to be back. "It was like a crap-shoot out there. You throw the dice and hope it rolls your way. But that suits me. I've never enjoyed playing so much as I have over the last two days," he said after beating Grant Connell 4-6, 6-1, 6-7, 7-5, 6-3 yesterday to win his first match on grass at the age of 21.

The centre court crowd were more than happy to return the compliment. As the American's ninth ace put a full stop to a match halted at one set all overnight, and punctuated by two further delays yesterday, they stood and applauded. Even the dignitaries in the Royal Box rose to join in the spirit of the moment. Thumbs up. The born-again Christian had survived.



"I was very intimidated when I first came out on centre court for the first time yesterday," Agassi explained. "But I have to admit I fell into the excitement and the classicness of it all. They are a very classy crowd out there. They clap for good shots and not for errors. At the US Open, I am used to being sworn at." In fact, Agassi himself uttered the only expletive of the day, but it was lost in the swirl of goodwill.

The acclaim for Agassi was genuine and well deserved, not because he played brilliant tennis — he did at times, notably on some explosive backhand passes, though not consistently — but because, on a surface as foreign to him as

afternoon tea and biscuits, he refused to be put off by the breaks for rain, which cost a mere hour, by the strange surroundings, or by the dogged resistance of the Canadian, who outdressed Nevada's finest and almost outplayed him. In the end, just one roll of the dice decided the issue in favour of the No. 5 seed.

A backhand from Agassi on break point at 5-5 in the fourth set clipped the top of the net and dropped apologetically onto Connell's side. Agassi's luck was in. Denied the chance to serve for the match, Connell lost 14 of the next 16 points and, by the time he had regained his poise, the American was back into a merry rhythm, undisturbed by a further half-hour break for rain in the final set.

On balance, Agassi had the best of the match anyway. He broke three times in the final two sets, and had chances to do so in three other service games. Though time and again the Canadian pulled an ace out of the bag when he most needed it, the pressure told in the end.

"I'll bang myself over the head tonight about that net cord. I put myself into position to win. I just got a little unlucky," Connell said. "But this will make him a better player." We shall see.

Agassi now plays Goran Prpic, another clay-courter making his debut at Wimbledon. The Yugoslav also had a five-set introduction to the grass, beating Jan Siemerink 10-8 in the fifth. They would be a good match for each other on clay and, presumably, on grass as well. Punish the second serve and move him wide on the two-handed backhand was Connell's tip.

Whatever his fate this year, Agassi has been a far easier convert to the ways of Wimbledon than Ivan Lendl. Agassi estimated that he might be a realistic contender for the title in three or four years. Lendl is still hoping. Yesterday, he began his twelfth Wimbledon with a straight-sets win over Kelly Evernden, of New Zealand. Evernden lost a lung and very nearly his life in a car accident at the age of 16, so he has an understandably happy-go-lucky attitude to life, which is not always an advantage on court.

For Lendl, after his surprise early defeat at Queen's, it was back to business as usual. He was particularly happy to be shaded from the limelight by Agassi's all-white glow. "No one comes to my press conferences any more. That's just how I like it," he said.

### Ivanisevic's mind on job

GORAN Ivanisevic, of Yugoslavia, refuses to allow the fears of civil war at home to affect his Wimbledon chances. "I'm just concentrating on my tennis," Ivanisevic, a Croat, from Split, said. "I'm not here to think about politics." Asked whether he wanted his nationality in the championships changed to Croatian, he replied, "No."

His parents were in London and he was in contact with his sister in Split.



Returning with a vengeance: Agassi on his way to a five-set victory over Connell on the centre court yesterday

## Brown enjoys his first victory roll

By ALIX RAMSAY

THERE was a sense of victory in the air as the large British contingent finally got its chance at Wimbledon yesterday. Nick Brown, one of the lowest ranked players in the tournament at 591, led the way with a spirited 6-4, 7-5, 6-1 win over Mark Keil, his first victory in the championships since 1982. Jeremy Bates followed suit with a victory over José Francisco Altur, 6-4, 6-4, 6-2. Then Mark Petchey pulled off a stunning win against the American, Jim Pugh, 4-6, 4-6, 6-3, 6-3, 8-6.

For a man who has already retired from tennis once in his career and is thinking of doing so again at the age of 29, Brown showed no sign of giving up the ghost. Only two weeks ago he lost to Keil in the final qualifying round at Queen's before Keil went on to beat the US Open champion, Pete Sampras, in the main draw. But yesterday it was a different story.

After a tentative start, Brown was 3-0 down but went

on to win the next five games to take a set. He did it again in the second, fighting back from 5-2 and saving a set point along the way. By then, despite the break for rain, Brown was on a roll and raced to victory, booking Goran Ivanisevic in the next round.

A few hours after Brown, Bates also won on court 13, followed by Petchey who saved a match point at 5-4 in the fifth set against Pugh and from there kept his head. He was the fifth home-grown player through to the second round.

Unfortunately, Sarah Bentley managed to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory against Maya Kidowaki, of Japan. She eased through the first set 6-1, and was serving for the match when the rains came. By the time she got back on court she had lost momentum and proceeded to lose a match point before falling apart 1-6, 7-5, 6-1.

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Wimbledon results, page 39

## Loyal to unroofed sword

DAVID MILLER

THE grass is safe. Never mind this week's onslaught from the heavens, the All England Club, guardian of lawn tennis, has not the slightest intention of yielding to nature, to the expediency of an artificial surface for commercial-packaging convenience.

Andre Agassi and the rest must learn to master the green ice rink. Nor is there much likelihood of a covered, sliding-roof centre court: not on a matter of cost but of conformity with other Wimbledon courts. And the women's champion can forget about equal prize-money.

"Wimbledon is lawn tennis," John Curry, the club chairman, said yesterday, as the tournament endeavoured to catch up and avoid the huge complication of extra play tomorrow.

"Grass is a very exciting surface. Many of the really great players initially play well on grass before they master other surfaces."

The problem this week, Curry said, has not been the grass but the weather; loss of play would have been almost as bad had the courts been artificial.

Furthermore, as the technology of growing stronger grass — possibly reinforced with synthetic net — continues to improve, Curry believes there may be a swing in popularity back to lawn tennis.

"We haven't yet seen what happens by the age of 40 to a generation of players reared on concrete," he said.

gnawing anxiety within Ivan Lendl to win the one remaining elusive crown. But that psychology, Curry says, has to embrace tolerance of varying conditions. "This is not a centre court tournament but a tournament of 17 other courts."

The committee considers it incorrect to provide a single court radically different, even if enjoyed by semi-finalists and finalists, and by spectators. If you change one element, if you lose the essence of the tournament — cover the centre court, change the grass — then everything is changed, Curry reasoned. Wimbledon is a tournament that tests players, and they must all be tested the same way. Grand slam tournaments, with 128-entry draws, are different from all others, a higher level of competition: change this environment, and everything is altered.

Curry considers there is a positive attitude by today's players, and believes they perceive the same value and experience of grass-court play as the, admittedly prejudiced, All England Club, last survivor of the three formerly grass grand slam tournaments. "I think Agassi did enjoy himself on Thursday, his first time on the centre court, even if he was nervous," Curry said yesterday.

"He wanted to satisfy himself. Most people want to convince themselves they are as good as they think they are."

Curry was a good county player, captain of Oxford University in 1962, his tournament peak being a semi-final against Roger Taylor. He likes to feel he is in sympathy with the psychology of the top professionals: that he understands the

The committee has yet to decide what will be the cost of tickets guaranteed next year to those who saw no play this year.

There could be a discount. The committee considered that spectators would prefer the opportunity of a guaranteed seat again rather than a refund. To refund money would cut the profit donated to the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA). "You do feel guilty," Curry said, "but somebody has to lose."

It is neither meanness nor male chauvinism that prevents Wimbledon conceding the women's demand for equal pay.

"It is like a boxing tournament," Curry said. "You have thrilling lightweight bouts, but people pay more to see the heavyweight title fight, even if it lasts two rounds."

Tennis spectators, whatever the Women's Tennis Association wishes to believe, prefer watching men. In a poll four years ago — there will be another next year — 68 per cent preferred watching men, and as many wanted men's doubles as women's singles.

In the ballot for Wimbledon tickets, the expressed preference is heavily for men's matches; so is the black market demand.

The television viewing figures show a preference, 5-4, for men's finals, a difference reflected in Wimbledon's prize-money.

"The issue is not a matter of the women not playing five sets," Curry insists.



Curry: a traditionalist

## Clubs may form league

By PETER BALL

THE breakaway football premier league came a step nearer yesterday when a meeting of first-division clubs at Lancaster Gate decided that they would resign en bloc from the Football League next week. If the pending court action prevents them becoming the Football Association's premier league, they intend to form an autonomous league on their own.

Fifteen clubs were present at the meeting, which lasted four hours under the chairmanship of the FA's financial adviser, Rick Parry.

"There was a unanimous resolve to state very clearly their commitment to the formation of a premier league," Parry said when he arrived in Torquay yesterday. "This is intended as a call on both governing bodies to cease legal action, and they have decided to give notice now."

The decision to set up an autonomous league if plans for joining the FA fall through adds a new factor into the equation, and took FA officials by surprise when they were informed of the move. Parry was anxious to insist that the clubs still intend to join the FA League if it is possible, but he said: "They have a strong commitment towards the FA, but there are a series of conditions to talk through with the FA, and if the court action should go against the FA they would form their own league."

Parry will be collecting the letters of resignation during the next few days. He was also still trying to talk to the seven missing clubs — Liverpool, Aston Villa, Manchester City, Manchester United, Nottingham Forest, Norwich City and Oldham Athletic — last night. Most will undoubtedly go along with the proposal.

Although the move is a reaction to the League's decision to go to court, it clearly could leave the FA without a league. "The FA's initial reaction to the concept of an autonomous league would be questionable," Graham Kelly, the FA's chief executive, said last night. "We would have to ask some very searching questions, and if the FA doesn't sanction the league it doesn't operate."

The Football League's response was to try and play down the importance of the gesture. "We are confident that the court case will be resolved in our favour," Andy Williamson, the assistant secretary, said, "and all they are doing when they are handing in their notice is simply to reserve their position."

There is no doubt that some of the clubs would be much happier running their own show anyway. There are areas in the FA's blueprint which contain the proposals for their premier league which do not appeal to all of the clubs, in particular the insistence on a cut-back to 18 from 22, and the threat of an autonomous league could either be used to try and force the FA to gain ground on this, or alternatively be brought into reality giving the clubs exactly what they want.

Automatic suspensions for players sent off for professional fouls, including hand ball, will be reduced from three matches to one next season for a first offence.

## Where Pelé and Gazza join a deserving cause

THIS week, this column abandons all the ethical principles for which it is justly famous, and descends to the naked plug. Moments of Greatness. Touches of Class: buy this book. For it was compiled by *The Times* tennis correspondent, Andrew Longmore, after he had covered a Davis Cup tie in Romania — an event that turned him into the Bob Geldof of sporting journalism. Much moved by the plight of the Romanian orphans, he resolved to do something to raise some cash.

So, Geldof-like, he employed the old-fashioned device of moral blackmail. One sportsman after another received his telephone call, and found himself talked into providing a piece on what he or she considered the finest moment in sport. The result is the book, published by Kingswood, in aid of the Romanian Orphanage Trust, and costing £8.99.

### SIMON BARNES ON SATURDAY

If you like sport, you'll like this book. It brings you a thousand delights, including Gazza, Gower, Pelé, Dawn Run, Dynamo Kiev, Jackie Stewart and a blind golfer. All sporting life is there. Oh, and there is a rather odd essay entitled "The Barnes-Davies Merit Award", which is apparently a prize presented to members of a cricket team called Terwin Irregulars.

### Caught at slip

More news on the Sports Injury of the Year. Dr Colin Crosby, of the Harpenden Sports Injury Clinic, writes to tell me of the time he had to treat Nade Jello Wrestler's Ankle. This occurred when two ladies were wrestling each other,

naked, in a pool of, well, Jello. The problem occurred when one of the audience ran onto the stage, shedding items of clothing as he went, intent on joining in. "Unfortunately, his momentum caused him to slip on entry and he landed heavily on one of the protagonists' legs," Dr Crosby writes. "She screamed, dropped into the Jello and was unable to stand. At this point... I was called from the audience and was obliged to examine the lady." He strapped the ankle and she was able to continue.

### Sunny Shetland

Well, the weather of late has not been all that good for summer sports, but I am happy to report that at least somewhere in Britain, conditions for cricket have been ideal. This is Shetland. Play continued throughout an endless sunlit northern evening recently as Knab CC won the Town Hall Centenary Cup by defeating

Lerwick CC by eight wickets, after dismissing them for 60.

### A first for MCC

Congratulations to Rachael Heyhoe Flint. She has just been made a member of MCC, and plays her first game for the club tomorrow. This is Mount Cricket Club, based at the Stanton pub near Broadway in Worcestershire. She is the first woman to play for MCC.

### Sweet revenge

Emesto Pellegri, the president of Internazionale football club of Milan, made his fortune from catering. Some years ago, just after his appointment, Gianni Agnelli, of Fiat and Juventus, rang the outgoing president to scoff: "What do you know — our cook is now president of Inter." Pellegri never forgave this jibe — and has now extorted revenge, a dish eaten cold in the tra-

ditional Italian fashion. Juventus played into his hands with their desire to acquire from Inter the manager, Giovanni Trapattoni. But Pellegri waited until he received a groveling personal appeal from Juventus, plus a deal that guaranteed him players to the value of £2 million. In Italian football, everything is taken personally.

### Finding the target

After two NatWest Trophy matches were set-aside this week by a bowling competition, with bowlers aiming at unprotected stumps, one wonders about the best technique for this odd ritual. I would have thought the ideal bowler for the task would be the wicketkeeper, bowling full-bungers off two paces. Anyone likely to generate bounce or turn or swerve or seam is only making problems for himself. But

wicketkeepers, likely to be unambitious net-bowlers, are ideal. The cricketers themselves don't agree: Waqar Younis ran in off ten paces for Surrey and hit the stumps once. The standard offering in both matches was military medium off a proper run-up. The result was that a number of balls bounced over the top, and one poor chap from Oxfordshire sent down a (wo) yard wide. Devon Malcolm, England's main strike bowler, was not selected to take part in Derbyshire's shoot-out. Only the other week, the Derbyshire chairman, Chris Middleton, was publicly criticising the England manager, Micki Stewart, for coaching Malcolm. He insisted that Derbyshire knew how to handle the bowlers. Derbyshire lost to Hertfordshire by two hits and one.

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